

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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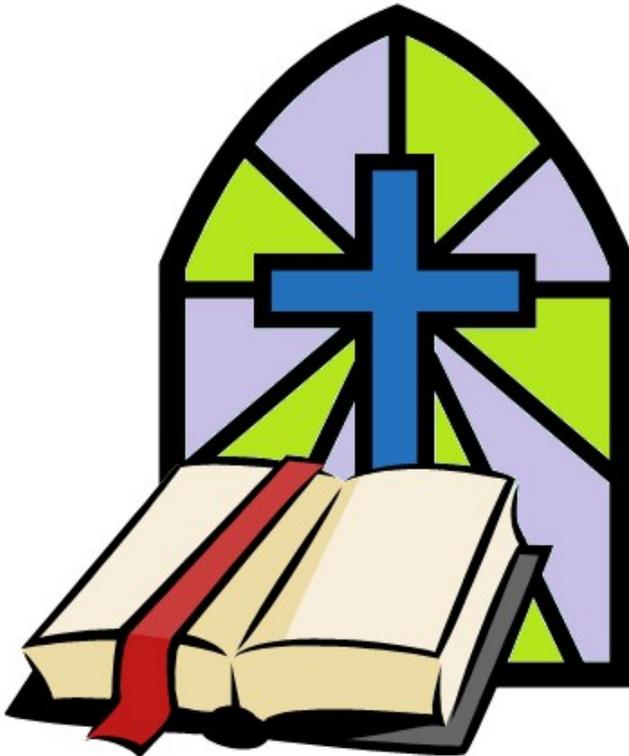
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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

ISSUE 252

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DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2018

- Fri. 2nd 10.00 am. Parent & Toddlers (every Friday until break)
- Sun. 4th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 am. Morning Worship & Parade Service,
Junior Church & Youth Group
- Tues. 6th 4.15 pm. Rainbows (every Tues. until break)
5.15 pm. Brownies (“ “ “ “)
7.15 pm. Guides (“ “ “ “)
- Wed. 7th 7.45 pm. Grapevine
- Thurs. 8th 2.00 pm. Women’s Club – Craft
5.20 pm. Beavers (every Thurs. until break)
6.15 pm. Cub Scouts (“ “ “ “)
7.00 pm. Scouts (“ “ “ “)
8.00 pm. Connect – Bible Study & Prayer Group
- Sat. 10th 10.30 am. Coffee Morning – Mission Group
- Sun. 11th HOME MISSION SUNDAY
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
& Rev. Wale Hudson-Roberts
11.00 am. Morning Worship & Junior Church
12.30 pm. Church Lunch – Mission Group
- Tues. 13th 2.00 pm. Friendship Club
- Wed. 14th 8.00 pm. Deacons Meeting
- Sun. 18th Rev. Ruth Moriarty & Mrs Pennie Bongomin
11.00 am. Morning Worship, Communion, Junior Church
& Youth Group
- Wed. 21st 7.45 pm. Grapevine
- Thurs. 22nd 2.00 pm. Women’s Club
8.00 pm. Connect – Bible Study & Prayer Group

Sun. 25th Mr Peter Griffiths
11.00 am. Morning Worship & Junior Church
12.15 pm. Church Meeting

Tues. 27th 2.00 pm. Friendship Club

MARCH

Fri. 2nd Women's World Day of Prayer (tba)

FAMILY NEWS

Many of our Church friends have been unwell over the past weeks and we hope that as the weather brightens up more people will be back with us in Church.

We pray for all who are unwell and for the continuing recovery of Lily Dawton, Anthea Denham, Tony Fensome, Brian Gibbins, Joyce Percy and Stephanie Wheatley.

We also think of Sara Skinner and family as their car was damaged whilst they were away, fortunately no one was hurt.

At the service on Sunday 28th January Rev. Ruth Moriarty asked Pennie Bongomin about her training to become a lay preacher and later Pennie delivered the sermon. She talked about being “anxious” and that God is always there to turn to. We pray for his help and guidance as she continues in her studies. (Pennie will also be involved in future services – see diary).

We also pray for Ola Lawal as she similarly progresses with her preaching training.

May God's blessings be with you all.

PASTORAL LETTER

Brothers and sisters of Christ Church,

Happy New Year and I wish you all the best for 2018 to achieve all goals and plans whatever they may be for the New Year! It may only be the 2nd month of 2018 and I bet that many of us have quit, put-on-hold or totally rejected our “*New year resolutions and plans for 2018*”. I will put my hand up and admit that it is hard to maintain patience and wait for something. We do not have a copious supply of patience to wait and go through the small steps that lead to the final outcome; everything has to come at the snap of a finger.

In today’s world, time has become somewhat of a finite component of existence. There is so much to do in our personal lives that we become impatient and rush through life, missing out on the finer details of life. Many biblical characters in Scripture made poor personal choices because of their lack of patience in God. A familiar story is Moses and the impatient Israelites in the wilderness (*Exodus 12 onwards*). Reading from Exodus 12 through to the book of Numbers, it paints a picture of how impatient and bitter the Israelites were towards Moses and to God, even testing God! By using Moses, God led His people out of horrible conditions, they lived as slaves in Egypt, He saved them from Pharaoh’s army (the parting of the Red Sea) and made great promises to the Israelites...but throughout the difficult journey, they were still impatient and complained A LOT! (*Exodus 17:2-7, Numbers 21: 4-6*). They wanted everything that God had promised right away.

We should learn from our ancestors, the Israelites, that God knows when to do everything. His timing is perfect and everything happens for a reason. The Israelites’ lack of faith was manifested in their impatience. With their own actions, they made things difficult for themselves in the wilderness.

Patience is one of the nine fruits of the Spirit. We had an interesting sermon led by our Minister Rev. Ruth Moriarty on the fruits of the Spirit and patience is one of the nine fruits needed to live a fruitful and peaceful life. Galatians 5: 22 – 23 (GNB) says “*But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. There is no law against such things as these.*” Patience is the ability to wait for something without getting annoyed or restless. Not too long ago, we went through a phase of finding a new minister for Christ Church Friern Barnet. Our patience was tested and what a test it was! There is an old saying that says, “*Good things come to those who wait*” and are we glad we waited! Applicant after applicant, we waited patiently as we read many applications, some of which were very good! We did not rush and pursue the applicant we thought was “good for Christ Church” but rather we waited on an answer from the Lord. Proverbs 3: 5-6 (GNB) “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and He will show you the right way.*”

Many people place blame on God by saying that “***He is taking too long with my plans***” and they prematurely rush into a decision without thinking of the consequences. When their decision backfires, shouts of desperation towards the sky such as “*God, why didn't you help me?*”, “*Why didn't you stop me God!?*” or “*I trusted in you Almighty God to see me through this journey*” ensues. Proverbs 19:3 (GNB), “*Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid actions and then blame the Lord.*” Our Heavenly Father never takes too long for a plan to come together. God knows what you don't know and He sees what you don't see. We have all been down that road where we have prayed for things we need in our lives and we see things that seem similar to what we prayed for. There are so many distractions in this world that detract us from what God wants for us. The evil schemes of man put what we have been praying for in front of us, giving us the illusion that it is from God. We must not rush into every decision which can lead to a

downward spiral. We must not pray and say “*God did not say no to this so I’m guessing this is His will.*” We must all be still and wait on the Lord. Psalms 37:7 (GNB), “*Be patient and wait for the Lord to act; don’t be worried about those who prosper or those who succeed in their evil plans.*”

As I mentioned in the opening paragraph, there were biblical characters that made poor choices because of their lack of patience in God. On a positive note, there were biblical characters who had patience and trust in God. A few names are Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12 onwards), Joseph (Genesis 37), Noah (Genesis 6), Job (Job 1) and Moses (Exodus 3). What is extraordinary about the names mentioned above are that all of them went through situations that required astonishing amount of patience and total trust in the Lord. We are not talking about a 5-day waiting period for the Lord to act. Some had to endure years of waiting to see the plan of the Lord manifest. Moses and the people of God had to endure the harsh conditions of the desert as they wandered the desert for 40-years for the Promised Land. Moses passed away within sight of the Promised Land. It took an incredible amount of patience for Moses, his family and the people of God to wait that long to finally reach the Promised Land that God had prepared for them.

As Christians, our lives will be a long journey with many ups and many downs. We are going to need a lot of patience to endure what life throws at us. We need to keep our focus on the Lord and not on the things of the flesh which will hinder our patience. In the coming years, the next step for Christ Church should be:

- 1) Building the foundation of the church with the Holy Spirit and not by what we think is right for church.
- 2) Growing the congregation and reaching out to the neighbouring communities.
- 3) Patiently waiting and preparing for the church-build to come to plan.

If it took Moses 40-years to wait patiently for the plan of God to manifest, why can't we wait for at least 5-10yrs for the church to grow and prosper? Abraham, Sarah, Noah, Moses and Job waited patiently for the Lord to act upon them, placing their every ounce of trust in God, we should use them as examples of patience for us as we wait upon the Lord.

Robert Mapara

MISSION GROUP

Thank you for all the Mission Boxes you brought to Church recently. They are now being counted.

As you probably know already we are having a "Mission Weekend" on the 10th and 11th February. On the Saturday there will be our Coffee Morning from 10.30am. and any donations will be sent to BMS.

If anyone can bake a cake or bring in something to sell please bring it along. We'd be most grateful.

Also please try to bring along a friend.

On Sunday 11th it is "Home Mission Sunday". Envelopes will be available to donate towards the work of Home Mission in the UK to support and help setting up small Church projects.

The Rev. Ruth Moriarty has invited a friend and fellow Pastor to share in leading the service with her. He is from Ruth's Woolwich Church.

After the service we'll be having a lunch in the Parlour. It is a community event. It's been advertised as a free lunch but we will still put out the donation box towards the cost.

Anthea Denham

WOMEN'S CLUB

On Thursday 11th January 2018 we had an almost full house for our Welcome Back afternoon. To cheer us in this challenging chilly and often wet month we played a game of Beetle Drive which concentrates the mind and lifts the heart. Yvonne was celebrating a birthday and brought in a lovely chocolate cake to add to our tea and cakes.

We met again on 25th January to craft Quotable Wall Art in a photo frame with words and attractive backing cut out from magazines to give interest. Clara was celebrating her birthday so we had a variety of home made cakes.

We meet again on 8th February for decoration of a canvas/linen shopping bag, another chance for our artistic skills to shine through during this chilly season.

We miss our dear friend Joyce Percy and send her our good wishes for her recovery.

If you would like to find out more about the Women's Club please ring me on 07703 483791.

Jane Gibbins

FINANCE FOR APRIL 2017 TO JANUARY 2018

Cash	£3,244.66
Envelopes	<u>£5,773.00</u>
	£9,017.66

January Communion Collection of £15.00
For the Compassionate Fund

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Christmas time came and went and we celebrated the coming of the New Year and before we knew it, it was time to have our first meeting of 2018; our “Welcome Back” afternoon on the 9th January. We were fortunate that the weather was reasonable and the Parlour was warm.

We talked about the things we had done over the holiday period whilst enjoying our tea and biscuits. Then we told some “funny” tales including the time one of our ladies bought a teapot from a well known store. When she arrived home she found it had a crack in it and it was leaking. On returning it to the shop the young assistant said “You must have poured hot water in it”!!

At our next meeting on the 23rd we discussed shopping in our “younger” days and compared this with today, noting how many of our much loved stores are now closed or have been taken over:- Woolworths, C & A, British Home Stores, Owen Owens, Timothy Whites and Radio Rentals.

One place which has stood the pace of time is a shop called “James Smith & Sons in New Oxford Street, which sells umbrellas, canes and walking sticks. They have been there over 140 years!

Our February meetings are on the 13th and 27th at 2pm. in the Parlour. We would love to share these afternoons with you.

Gladys Townsend

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11 at 8pm. on Monday 19th February 2018.

Please let us have your material for the March Newsletter by Sunday 18th February

BIBLICAL BITS AND PIECES

Abaddon - Hebrew word for destroyer

Animism - The belief that everything in the universe has a living soul

Apollyon - Greek word for destroyer

Corban - An offering dedicated to God

Decalogue - The ten commandments found in Exodus 20

Deism - The belief that God exists but is not involved in the world

Deontology - The study of moral obligation

Fideism - The position that religious doctrines rest not on reason but only on faith

Filioque - The doctrine that the Holy Spirit proceeds equally from both Father and Son

Homiletics - The branch of theology concerned with preaching and sermons and the proper way in which to deliver them

In Fieri - Beginning to be but not yet complete

Kenosis - This is a teaching concerning Jesus' incarnation

Logos - The Greek word for "God" mentioned only once in the writings of John

Monergism - The teaching that God alone is the one who saves

Pantheism - The belief that the universe is contained within God

Pedobaptism - The practise of infant baptism

Trichotomy - The teaching that the human consists of three parts: body, soul and spirit

Thanks to Tony Fensome

MY TRUE LOVE SENT NOTHING BUT TROUBLE

from the Daily Mail

This letter; my love, is to thank you
For the unusual gifts that you've sent me.
But I'm sad to report the partridge is poorly.
He's eaten too many pears from the tree

The turtle doves seem to have issues.
They're pecking each other in the neck
The three French hens are sneezing.
And have avian flu, I suspect.

The calling birds' phone bill is enormous,
But to confiscate their phones seems so mean,
And sadly the five gold rings you gave me
Have made all my fingers turn green.

I like geese, but please understand, dear
The mess they make is quite appalling.
Also, with seven swans swimming in my tub
I can't have a bath – which is galling.

The milkmaids, although very charming,
Keep slopping their milk on the floor
And with so many lords and ladies dancing
It's making my head feel quite sore.

The drummers and pipers are too noisy
My neighbours have started to moan
They say that their windows are shaking
And they can't hear their TV or phone.

Oh, dearest, I know that you love me
These gifts are amazing as I said,
But next year for Christmas can I ask you
To please buy me a gift token instead.

Thanks to Val Oram

CHRISTIAN AID

The Christian Aid Quiz and Supper was held at St. John's Church on Saturday 27th January. Two people from our congregation attended. I have not heard how much they raised yet but will let you know in due course.

Anthea Denham

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Are you still dwelling on the mistakes or disappointments of 2017? Let's be honest it's very difficult to let go and trust God. However, only God can help us control the negative and sad memories that hunt us.

This is why the Bible tells us to cast our care on God for He cares for us, 1 Peter 5:7. To commit our way, our plans and our hopes to the Lord, Psalm 37:5. This 2018, God asks us to forget whatever is causing our regret, hopelessness and sadness. He wants us to trust Him.

Lord Jesus will do new, great and beautiful things for us. He will make way where there is no way. He will heal that stubborn physical ailment. He will grant us the clarity of mind, wisdom and understanding needed for 2018. Why? He loves us and His Word never fails. God's words below still apply today. Hold on to them.

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

¹⁸“Forget the former things;

do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness

and streams in the wasteland.

Ola Lawal