

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear All,

As we begin 2023, we are delighted to have a baptism service this Sunday. At baptism, we tell our story of faith in Jesus, Jesus who saves us, gives us hope and calls us to follow him. The person who will be baptised is from Iran. Iranian Christians face enormous threats of persecution and yet still find faith in Christ. Her story is one of pure discipleship, her faith has led her to trust in God completely for safety and a hope of a better life here in the UK. God calls us all to follow him. God calls all people, in all places, from all backgrounds to follow him. Our responsibility is to walk in faith as He leads us. Please do pray for our baptism candidate, may her story inspire each of us to continue to point to Jesus throughout our lives.

In our weekly prayer meetings so far this year we have been looking at the Psalms, inspired by Paula Gooder's book 'Journaling the Psalms'. Psalm 40 begins with the psalmist's words: I waited patiently for the Lord, he inclined to me and heard my cry (NKJV). The psalm expresses the reality of life when things are tough, and reminds us to remember the great wonders of God while we wait for change. This year will be another year of waiting for us as a church. We will wait to finalise the sale of Grove Road. In our waiting, God is close to us, he turns to us or inclines towards us. May we look to God as we wait to redevelop our site, and may we notice his turning to us and be sustained by him. Please do join us to pray on Thursdays 8-9pm on zoom (link in weekly email).

We are happy indeed to welcome Rebecca Feo to be a deacon next month, she was elected to serve at our last Church Meeting. Rebecca has a pastoral heart for Christ Church and a faith rooted in Jesus. She has been part of our church since the 1970s and will be a great addition to our diaconate.

I will be on study leave for extended periods of time this year in order to finish my thesis on discernment. I'll be studying and away from church 13-26 February and 17-30 April. In these times, please do keep in touch with each other via our WhatsApp group. If you need to discuss anything

about the church, please do contact: Clare (secretary) or for pastoral support contact Deacons Ola 07958505417 or Diana 07970028499.

Please do pray for me, it's enjoyable research but tough and demanding to make sure such a big piece of work is well written and gets done!

God's richest blessings

Ruth

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

FAMILY NEWS

We think of all those who are bereaved and pray for all who mourn the loss of family members or friends at this time.

Whilst the number of people able to attend each service, week after week, varies for many reasons, we know that there are some Church Members and other friends who are unwell at present and we remember them all in our prayers. We pray for their speedy recovery.

If unable to attend in person don't forget that you can of course watch our services online.

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.

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2023

- Thurs. 2nd 8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 5th 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting in Parlour
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
- Tues. 7th 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (Tuesdays until break)
5.45 p.m. Brownies (“ “ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “ “)
- Wed. 8th 8.00 p.m. Premises Group Meeting
- Thurs. 9th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club
8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 12th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Ruth Moriarty
Morning Worship – All Age Service
- 13th to 17th SCHOOL HALF TERM HOLIDAY
- Thurs. 16th 8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 19th Mr. Femi Onanuga
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
- Wed. 22nd 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting via Zoom
- Thurs. 23rd 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club
8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 26th Dr. Robin Ruck
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
Followed By Church Meeting

MARCH

- Thurs. 2nd 8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 5th 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting in Parlour
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church

CHURCH MEETING NOTES

Meeting held in the Sanctuary, 22nd Jan. 2023.

Present 19; 2 non-members, with apologies received from Gladys Townsend, Rebecca Feo and Pennie Bongomin.

Patricia Balogun was welcomed to her first meeting as a member.

The meeting opened in prayer.

MINUTES of last meeting(27/11/22) were printed in the December newsletter; no corrections were raised.

Voting papers were distributed, collected in the ballot box and then were counted

Financial report

Figures presented in same format as at November Church Meeting

General Income		Exceptional Income	
Giving	£ 14,217	Drawn down LBPB	£ 84,100
Rental	£ 17,723		
TOTAL	£ 31,941		

General Expenditure		Exceptional Expenditure	
Regular	£ 39,876	Exceptional	£ 86,089
TOTAL	£ 39,876		
Shortfall	£(7,935)	Shortfall	£ (1,989)
	minus		minus

Comments made were discussed:

Lots of money has been paid to CPL, our Architects, being part of the Special projects under Exceptional expenditure. Funds have been drawn down from LBPB.

In hand – Insurance claim for loss of income; VAT return

We are asset rich; however up until we get Pembroke Road resolved, things will be tight.

During redevelopment we'll have NO Hire Income, but after hopefully should be able to get more.

Grove Road planning passed in Dec; now await Enfield council Section 106 agreement by lawyers. Judicial review then should be OK in May.

The vote counters then returned. Both Anthea and Rebecca were voted in as Deacons. Ola prayed for both new Deacons and our Church.

Report from URC Lag – A Group of 13 churches in local area.

Hampstead Garden Suburb have called a Congregational of Wales minister, however it was noted that there are only 2 URC ministers who are both part time, whereas there were 5 from other denominations.

Ruth is still working on her doctorate and will be studying during the last 2 weeks in Feb and the last 2 weeks of April - To submit in summer time.

Discussion took place re the information shown on screen during our services.

Some of the videos used today were hard to read. Editing videos takes time however and also, synchronising is hard.

Use of other languages in services to allow for our diverse community.

Jane prayed for the baptism next week.

Soundscapes from the Planet - Storytelling & Music Workshops

February 1, 8,15,22 March 1, 8 2023 6-8pm

**Drama Space, Arts Depot Finchley, 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner,
North Finchley London N12 0GA**

Hello

We are NW Live Arts, an arts organisation promoting creativity in our community.

Website: nwlivearts.co.uk | Youtube: <https://youtu.be/VPWiFd10EzA>

We work with fabulous professional musicians, creative writers and storytellers to investigate the issues facing the world today.

We are running 6 creative workshops at Arts Depot Finchley looking at the impact of climate change. We'd love you to be involved.

COME AND JOIN US!

In a series of six playful and explorative workshops you will have a chance to consider the impact of climate change on our world and its people, creatively, through storytelling, music and drama.

Developing your storytelling skills, led by actor and storyteller Callum Rhys-Williams, you will share your ideas about our planet and how we can work together to reverse the damage caused by climate change.

You will also have the chance to collaborate with remarkable professional musicians exploring the same theme together.

The culmination of this project is Soundscapes from the Planet, a music and storytelling concert in artsdepot's Studio Theatre on Thursday 16 March. The work you create together will be included in the concert programme – signing up to the workshops does not oblige you to perform in the concert, but if you enjoy performing, you can get up on stage and share your story with the audience.

These workshops are suitable for everyone in our community regardless of their experience of performing or the creative arts.

For more information and find out how to take part go to:

<https://www.artsdepot.co.uk/events/nw-live-arts-storytelling-music-workshop>

LIFE AND MISSION CHOIR

ALL ABOARD THE SWINGBOAT!

"Toe tapping from start to finish"

"The music and performances were marvellous"

"A wonderful evening"

"Loved it - great catchy songs!"

The Life and Mission Choir are thrilled to present this brand-new musical.

Following a fantastic premiere weekend in October 2022 we are excited to get back on board the Swingboat.

Two packed-out venues saw the Noah story like it's never been seen before - featuring a wealth of fantastic sparkling new songs telling the story of a family in lockdown, on a boat, with a load of animals!

We were hugely grateful and immensely humbled by the wonderful, supportive audiences and their generous feedback. Now there's a chance to see it again and invite all your friends and family!

Featuring a talented cast of eight, with a great animal chorus, a rockin' 7 piece band and the brilliant Junior choir of St Mary's Hendon to tell the story in a vibrant new way.

Don't miss out! All Aboard!

The Life and Mission Choir
present

Swing Boat

A New Musical

Music and Lyrics
**PAUL WARDROP-DAY
AND DAVID PESTON**



A FAMILY IN LOCKDOWN
FOR MONTHS...
SOUND FAMILIAR?
NOW ADD TWO OF
EVERY ANIMAL!

ADMISSION
FREE

Donations gratefully accepted.

SAT. 4TH MARCH 2023 7PM
Barnet United Reformed Church,
Wood Street, Barnet, EN5 4BW
SUN. 5TH MARCH 2023 7PM

St. Andrew's Church, Chaseside,
Southgate, London, N14 5PP

LIFEANDMISSIONCHOIR.COM

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I enjoyed the Advent O Antiphons, produced by the URC, which we used for Bible study. O Antiphons are short verses used before and after Mary's song, the Magnificat. The O Antiphons point to who the coming King, Jesus Christ is, and what He is coming to do as written in the Scripture including the Apocrypha. Thank God that Jesus has come to redeem us from our sins by His death and resurrection. We await His second coming when He will come to judge the world and make all things new as written in the scriptures.

It is great to note that Jesus is not only the King but also our forever great High Priest, in the order of Melchizedek, (Psalm 110:4). He sits on the right hand of God, interceding for us. Romans 8:34. Remember to take all to Him in prayer, failures, fears, or needs. Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and friend is always very willing to forgive and help us as written below.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIRV)

We have a high priest (Jesus the Son of God), who can feel it when we are weak and hurting. We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin. So let us boldly approach God's throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it.

Ola Lawal

The rearranged date for the URC – 50th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration is Saturday April 15th 2023 at the Methodist Central Hall Westminster at 2.30pm. – see web site for booking info. for free tickets and for details of the Open Church House, Tavistock Place, WC1 morning events between 10am. – 12 noon.
(www.urc.org.uk)