

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

Friern Barnet Road
N11 3EP
020 8361 1818

Grove Road
N11 1LX
020 8361 2396

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

ISSUE 262

www.christchurchnsfb.org



Happy New Year

DIARY FOR JANUARY 2019

- Sun. 6th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
- Sat. 12th 10.30 a.m. Coffee Morning – Mission Group
- Sun. 13th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service
- Tues. 15th 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (until break)
5.15 p.m. Brownies (“ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “)
8.00 p.m. Fabric & Finance – in the Parlour
- Wed. 16th 7.45 p.m. Grapevine
- Thurs. 17th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club
5.20 pm. Beavers (until break)
6.15 pm. Cub Scouts (“ “)
7.00 pm. Scouts (“ “)
- Sun. 20th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
- Tues. 22nd 8.00 p.m. Hall Development Meeting – at the Manse
- Wed. 23rd 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting – in the Parlour
- Sat. 26th 10.30 a.m. Deacons Retreat – at St Peter’s Bourne
- Sun. 27th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
12.15 p.m. Church Meeting
- Thurs. 31st 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club

FAMILY NEWS

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and send our greetings to all for a very happy and healthy New Year.

We have received greetings and news from many past members of Christ Church; it is always a pleasure to hear from you and to find out your news.

May God's blessings be with you.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We joined together on the 4th December for our Christmas afternoon when we exchanged greetings and enjoyed our usual cup of tea and eats.

We did a colour quiz which Dorothy Brown had supplied, lots of Christmas readings and poems, sadly no singing of carols as we once did. We still had lots of laughs and were happy to share time together.

We are due to meet again on the first Tuesday in February, the 5th February 2019.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Gladys Townsend

FINANCE FROM APRIL to DECEMBER 25th 2018

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Cash | £3041.91 |
| Envelopes | <u>£5611.10</u> |
| | £8653.01 |

December Communion collection of £23.30
for the Compassionate Fund

PASTORAL LETTER

Welcome to The Bible

The Bible is the most powerful book that has ever been written. Countless lives have been changed by it, numerous authorities have tried to ban it, Godless persons have burned it and many Christians have died to preserve it. Why has this book had such a huge impact on so many people? Because this book, The Bible, is the very word of God as He was the author. Over hundreds of years he chose certain individuals to write down exactly what He wanted to tell mankind and although these people wrote in Hebrew and Greek their words have been carefully translated into many languages so today the whole world can read God's message if they choose to.

Although the Bible was written over a thousand years ago its message is timeless, personal and powerful because it comes from God. Millions of people have discovered that the Bible speaks to their deepest needs and people from all over the world turn to God's word daily for words of hope, comfort, guidance, encouragement and inspiration and the answers to their problems. However, the Bible is more than just an answer book for the world's problems, it is also made up of exciting adventures, inspiring stories, beautiful poetry, compelling messages and the wonderful life story of Jesus Christ.

The Bible may look like one book, but it is actually sixty-six books rolled into one, thirty-nine make up the Old Testament and twenty-six in the New Testament. God used many authors, as many as forty, over a time period of many centuries and each one contributes to God's life changing message. What is that message? God makes it clear that He loves us and has a plan to save us from sin's destructive power.

God wants each of us to experience a life that has meaning, direction, love and peace, and this can be possible through a personal relationship with His Son Jesus Christ. When people decide to follow God's plan for their lives the most important thing is to recognise Jesus as their Lord and Saviour so they can find meaning and purpose in all that they do, for without God's direction they may not know what to do with their lives.

When they follow Jesus as their Lord and Saviour they will be at peace with God and filled with His love so that when troubles rear their ugly heads God will be with them. So, remember we can live to please God by obeying the commands He has given everyone in the Bible and if we obey God, we can be sure that we are Christians and will one day have eternal life in Heaven.

Tony Fensome

WOMEN'S CLUB

We enjoyed a decorative festive afternoon on Thursday 13th December made up of Quizzes from Anne and a pick challenge directed by Val. A scrumptious afternoon tea was provided by Joyce and Barbara. We are now on a Christmas break and start up again on Thursday 17th January at 2pm in the parlour with a games afternoon to allow for weather conditions and reduced numbers.

The Women's Club has a mix of talks, craft and games. Do join us. You will find a warm welcome and a break from the cold with tea, cakes and friendship.

Jane Gibbins

CHRISTIAN AID

There have been notices in Church detailing Christian Aid services for Christmas and also Carol Singing at Arnos Grove with Churches Together

The Christian Aid Quiz is probably going to be on Saturday 2nd February at St. John's Parish Hall, Friern Barnet Road. Dinner will be served and tickets will be available soon, I gather. I will keep you posted with definite dates, times and ticket prices. We could form our own table team and if you would like to tickle your brains up and support Christian Aid at the same time please let me know.

May God's Light shine over you and bring you Joy!

Anthea Denham

TOY SERVICE & NATIVITY PLAY

A mischievous north wind chased the sullen clouds across a slate grey sky on the occasion of the annual toy service and nativity play. What made it special was the arrival of Lily, with her son Philip, after such a long absence, “Nice to see you, to see you nice!!”

After a warm welcome from our minister, the Rev Ruth Moriarty, and a prayer and two hymns came another treat, the reading from Luke 1 verses 26 to 38 about “The birth of Jesus foretold” was read by none other than the minister’s husband John, another first. The second advent candle was then lit by Sam’s boys reminding us of God’s message to Mary and the importance of spreading His light and goodness to the world at large. Ruth then sprang another surprise by announcing the singing of our first Christmas carol “Oh Come all ye Faithful”. Yes! “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas”.

Now came the long-awaited Nativity play which came with ...??
Yes! you’ve guessed it, audience participation! During the play when certain words or phrases were spoken the congregation would respond with a sound or action, for example....

- “Well good” - thumbs up from us
- “Shepherd” - a very odd stance and a sheep impersonation Baa.
- “Wise men” - beard fondling
- “Mary” - Mummy
- “Joseph” - Daddy
- “Angels” - Ahhh

At short notice Annie agreed to narrate the play along with Ruth, the play was subtitled “Well good news honest” The play followed the well-loved formula of all nativity plays but with the inclusion of rhyming couplets.

First on stage were the angels after a complete circuit of the Church, next came a large Joseph and a diminutive Mary, no lap of the church for them, lastly three (I struggle to call them wise) persons, PC brigade to the fore here and again another church circuit. All in all, great fun with rapturous applause at the end.

Next more fun as the congregation moved into the middle pews for a game of Chinese whispers, one memorable phrase being “Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat”.

The toy part of the service followed and we all placed toys for the underprivileged children of Barnet on a table which groaned under the weight.

Ruth’s sermon enlarged on the reading from Luke and contained such phrases as - “The power of bullying stinks and is rotten”, “God’s power will rest on you”, “God’s power is love and gives hope”, “real power is what we give away”, “we are loved by God”. Powerful stuff indeed!

We then made baubles with space for a prayer to hang on the Christmas tree. The last carol was “In the bleak midwinter” and after the blessing the service finished at 12:11pm.

Tony Fensome

PHOBIAS

Do you have a fear or phobia?

If so check this quiz to see if yours is here.

- (1) Acoustiphobia is the fear of?
- (2) Alektorophobia is the fear of?
- (3) Coulrophobia is the fear of?
- (4) Tatrophobia is the fear of?
- (5) Gamophobia is the fear of?
- (6) Pathophobia is the fear of?
- (7) Acrophobia is the fear of?
- (8) Cataptrophobia is the fear of?
- (9) Dystychiphobia is the fear of?
- (10) Ailurophobia is the fear of?
- (11) Spheksophobia is the fear of?
- (12) Amanthophobia is the fear of?
- (13) Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of?
- (14) Chionophobia is the fear of?
- (15) Tomophobia is the fear of?

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The manger and star attached to the Church shone out into the darkness; inside the Christmas tree glittered and windows were dressed with holy and ivy with candles flickering; the table on the dais was filled with candles saying “on you the light of the world will shine”. Clare opened the service explaining that from now on we would proceed without direction. Thanks go to Roger Day, playing the piano, and helping us through our favourite high noted carols and choruses with his light touch. The story of our saviour’s birth was read by members of the congregation reflecting all ages, men and women and cultures and began with the prophecies from Isaiah and Micah.

Joan read the poem *Christmas* by John Betjeman of people preparing homes and churches for Christmas, office celebrations, of shoppers remembering Mum and Dad.

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

*The Rev. Ruth Moriarty spoke of Shauneen Lambe. Shauneen is a top human rights lawyer who said a Martin Luther King quote inspired her 'the arc of history is long but it bends towards justice.' As we consider the image of the tree of Jesse this Advent (Isaiah 11), we remember that the people of Isaiah's day had waited a long time for change. They longed for mercy and peace – they longed for justice. Every time we see justice

taking place, we glimpse something of the glory of God. The arc of history is long but it bends towards justice, it bends towards the king of justice who is the one who can judge in perfect love and will restore peace to us in the end. May we seek the joy of justice in our lives, and may we seek it for others wherever we can, and may we call for it for all who need it. For when we call for justice, we call for Jesus in his beauty and peace to be present, and He is the one who transforms each of us as we seek him step by step.

A highlight of the service was a video produced by Great Commission. A soft rap to the greatest story ever told. There are bells ting-a-linging, cinnamon aroma and chestnuts roasting on an open fire. Busy shoppers and music from Bing Crosby +But as Bono said “tonight thank God it’s them instead of you”. While we experience the joy of Christmas let us not forget that the destiny of the Christmas baby is to die in our lieu from fairy tale birth to a criminal cross. Thank God it’s Him instead of you. Don’t just remember, respond and surrender for Christ the Saviour is born. (If you have an internet connection, I recommend you see it).

A collection was made for the Family Resource Centre.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing brought the service to a close.

We were invited to make our way to the parlour for hot drinks and mince pies. Our thanks must go to those who provided the cakes, those who served us and cleared away after such a successful Carols by Candlelight Service.

I wish you all a Very Happy New Year

Jane Gibbins

* From Rev Ruth Moriarty

+Band Aid 1984 Do They Know It’s Christmas

MISSION GROUP

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year. We hope you all enjoyed a Merry Christmas.

While writing this in December, Diana, Pennie, Ola, Chris and I are planning a huge shop at Asda's on Tuesday 18th December. We hope to help as many people who are feeling the strain of very tight budgets. We hope that helps a little over the expensive Christmas period and know we care about them. I am very grateful for support from Church Members as well as Mission Group members. Thank you to all who gave so generously through the "Food Parcel Appeal Envelopes", as well as the money collected during our beautiful "Carols by Candlelight" service to support the vulnerable people known to our local Family Resource Centre run by Barnet. That collection was £146.11 at Candlelight service. They were delighted to receive also all the beautiful toys, teddies, games and books given at the Toy Service earlier in the month. And all delivered by Lynda Eade. The Family Resource Centre will deliver the food parcels to families they know who are in need of support.

The Carol Singing at Arnos Grove was extremely successful due to the Brownies, Rainbows, Guides and parents and members of our Congregation. Roger Oram said that about 31 people joined in! They raised £291.02 for Baptist World Aid in 2 hours 20 minutes. The public responded well obviously due to the glorious sound as they trundled along up the stairs after a day's work. Many thanks to Val Oram for counting the money and to Sue Rogers for pulling "Hetty", our music box, down to the station in a suit case! That must have helped so much with the sound of music in the air.

I was sad to miss it but was firmly instructed not to be there by Val and Pennie! In actual fact I was at the Royal Free Hospital with Tanya having a consultation and would not have been back in time but I love that feeling of the True Spirit of Christmas echoing around the draughty and lofty Arnos Grove Station and the reaction of the public. Well done everyone!

Cont'd

MISSION GROUP cont'd

A lovely thank you certificate has been sent to us from HAB (Homeless Action in Barnet) for our generous Harvest Gifts. You may remember we took food- tins, packets of food as well as a large monetary amount for the centre for essentials as well as clothing.

I am happy to take any clothing you may no longer need, socks, shoes, clothing for men and women. They are able to make great use of them. Please ensure they are clean and presentable for people living on the streets in chilly London. The Food Banks in Barnet and East Barnet are running well as is a nearby Friday night Winter Shelter run by Robert Wright (Christian Aid secretary). There is usually a special centre for Christmas Day with a meal provided, warmth and comfort. I believe the Synagogue who support Winter Shelter are taking this over during the Christmas period.

God Bless.

Anthea Denham

Phobia Quiz Answers

- 1) Noise
- 2) Chickens
- 3) Clowns
- 4) Doctors
- 5) Marriage
- 6) Illness
- 7) Horses
- 8) Mirrors
- 9) Accidents
- 10) Cats
- 11) Wasps
- 12) Dust
- 13) The number 13
- 14) Snow
- 15) Surgery

With thanks to Tony Fensome

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Thank you, Lord Jesus for your care in 2018 and for bringing us safely into 2019.

Whatever 2019 holds in store, try to remain firmly in Jesus Christ's embrace.

Don't dwell on the fears, anxieties or setbacks of last year.

In this 2019, go forward boldly in the power of Jesus, knowing we have a faithful Shepherd who will never abandon His sheep.

When in doubt, confused or anxious, try singing or reciting the words of the hymn below for the reassurance of God's faithfulness and love.

*“Through the love of God our Saviour;
All will be well;
Free and changeless is His favour;
All, all is well.
Precious is the blood that healed us;
Perfect is the grace that sealed us;
Strong the hand stretched out to shield us;
All must be well.”*

Happy, Blessed, Peaceful and Prosperous 2019.

Ola Lawal

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee
will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11
at 8pm. on Monday 21st January 2019.

Please let us have your material for the February Newsletter
by Sunday 20th January.