

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

ISSUE 306

www.christchurchnsfb.org



DIARY FOR 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
- Tues. 10th 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (Tuesdays until break)
5.45 p.m. Brownies (“ “ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “ “)
- Wed. 11th 8.00 p.m. Premises Group Meeting
- Thurs. 12th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club
8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 15th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
- Thurs. 19th 8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 22nd Rev. Ruth Moriarty
Preacher – To be confirmed
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
Followed By Church Meeting
Including Deacons Election
- Wed. 25th 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting via Zoom
- Thurs. 26th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club
8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 29th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service

FEBRUARY

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

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

FAMILY NEWS

It has been a very busy December which started with our Nativity and Toy Service on the 4th (see article herein), prior to which the Church had been decorated by a dedicated group of helpers for whom we are most grateful. That afternoon, followed the “Bereavement Service” and the next week, we had “Carols by Candlelight” with wonderful piano accompaniment and many volunteer readers.

Saturday 17th came around quickly with the Craft Café, enjoyed by all, and then on Christmas Eve many happy youngsters were seen making Christingles. Christmas morning also saw a number of visitors joining with us on this special day.

Sadly, a number of Members and friends have not been able to attend Church however, as illness still prevails. We think of all who remain unwell and pray for their speedy recovery. As we go into 2023, we wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year.

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Happy New Year. I hope you had a good Christmas and managed to enjoy our Advent and Christmas services either in person at church or online.

January is a suitable time to look back on the past year, thank God for all He had done and, think about what went well and could be built upon. It is also a time to correct or change things that have not measured up to our expectation, where possible. Which is why people tend to make New Year resolutions in January.

There were good things that we could keep or build on. For example: The live streaming of all services which has made our worship more accessible. The regular communion every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. The monthly church meeting, the insertion of the minutes' notes in the monthly newsletter, the weekly church e-mail, and the WhatsApp group all of which had helped our communication with one another. We marked all the Special Sundays of the year and enjoyed the church lunches. Easter was extra-special with the inclusion of a Baptism. Our on-line profile had increased, and our church website is one of the best around. And donation to the church on-line using our PayPal account.

There are things we can thank God for - For example: our very initiative-taking minister, Revd. Ruth Moriarty; Diana Bensted & Robert Mapara for our Website and live-streaming. The church Secretary, Clare Jenkins for excellent communication. The Premises committee who looks after our premises. The Deacons who do various things to support the minister. Anne Petts and Jane Gibbins who serves us hot drinks after worship. We thank Him for the church that is steadily growing. Last but not the least, we thank Him for the approval of Beverly's building plans which means we can move forward with our building project. Add your own thank you to the list.

I do not believe in New Year resolution as it usually gets thrown out of the window by the end of January. Instead of resolutions, let us make a conscious decision to improve on certain things this year, using

Philippians 4:13, to propel you. 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Try making a conscious decision to be more involved with other church fellowship activities and not just the Sunday worship. For example, to attend the monthly TOAST prayer meeting, every first Sunday of the month at 9a.m.; To join the Bible Study every Thursday night on Zoom at 8p.m; To read the bible and pray at a dedicated time every day; To be more involved generally in all the activities of the church and of course any other thing you will like to improve upon.

We do not know what 2023 holds for us. However, we know that '-- nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Romans 8:39. Let us go boldly forward with Jesus, our Sustainer and Provider in this 2023 in the power of the Holy Spirit doing all we can to build His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

I wish you all a wonderful 2023, full of God's joy, peace, and good health.

Ola Lawal

CHURCH GIVING – GIFT AID

We thank all who are able to give regularly to help support the Church. Whilst those attending on a Sunday morning can make a donation, if they wish, for those of you that want some, we can provide printed weekly envelopes for you to use for your offerings. Please speak to Gladys or Paul Townsend (arthurtownsend@aol.com), who will get some to you. If able to contribute to the work of the Church, you can also donate via PayPal by going to the Church web site where you can pay by card or PayPal account, donate once or set up a regular payment. (www.christchurchnsfb.org).

For those who want to make regular payments you can pay by "Standing Order" direct from your Bank Account to the Church Account. To set up a new Standing Order, payments should be sent to the Church Account at Barclays Bank UK PLC, Sort Code 20-95-61, Account Number 20596027 in the name of Christ Church New Southgate & Friern Barnet (Baptist/United Reformed). Please advise the Church Treasurer if you set up a regular arrangement.

Importantly, if you pay the same amount or more in Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in the tax year that you wish to donate to the Church, then we can benefit by claiming back from the HMRC the amount of 25p for every £1 you give. Should you be able to donate and want to complete a Gift Aid declaration form, please contact Gladys or Paul Townsend.

Thank you all.

NATIVITY & TOY SERVICE

Nativity service was on the first Sunday of December, which now feels ages away and heralds that feeling of Christmas already.

Look back at the You Tube video, as we can now do, by looking at old videos on our You Tube channel and check how good our memories are! Which was really useful to write this, as I did not have to only depend on my memory.

I also noted details that I could not see during the service – for example, when Aarv lit the Advent Candles, it is really clear on the video, but from the back of church, by the door, it is not so clear what is going on. The advantage of having different angles of viewing.

We collected lots of toys – new and nearly new for the New Southgate Family Resource Centre. These were all laid out on the piano and then collected together and taken to the Resource Centre for distribution to needy families in the area.

There followed a special presentation from the Division Commissioner for Southgate Girl Guiding, Daphne Gunn, to Val Oram and Lynda Eade. This was to recognise their long and distinguished service to our Brownie group – in fact, even including bringing the group to the Baptist Church in the first place. Daphne got the whole team of leaders on to the stage and started off by introducing the team and then presented Elaine Harsley, our new Brownie leader, with her 5 years' service award and Brownie Leadership Qualification and Mary Mason who helps with Rainbows received her 10 years award.

Lynda Eade received her Middlesex East Good Service brooch to recognise her 27 years service to Brownies in many ways.

Val Oram was acknowledged to have already received her 40 year long, service award (since 1976 possibly). Daphne then presented Val with a Girlguiding Association Good Service Award which is a very special award from within Girlguiding.

Pauline Skiffins (Guide and Ranger leader) and Anne Petts (Rainbow leader) were given flowers in thanks so that the whole team had received acknowledgement.

A poem of thanks was then read by two of the Rangers who had grown up through Brownies and Guides.

After a carol was sung, Ruth announced that all who wished to take part in the Nativity to come forward to collect costumes – and more than had initially agreed came forward, as some who were too scared to take part before the service, came up to get costumes

Thankfully a variety of people also assisted with identifying costumes for people to wear. Ruth reckoned that this would take about 5 minutes – and on the video I can time it at 7 minutes – so not a bad guess – to get everyone into position and costume.

This was very interesting for me to watch as I was Children/actor wrangling and trying to supply the microphone to each person who had a spoken part. So, it looked very different watching myself chasing around with a microphone! If you want to learn what not to do, I recommend watching me in this ...

We had 5 angels, 2 shepherds, 3 kings, Herod, Mary and Joseph - of wide range of ages. Do watch this on the video – it is interesting to see how something can be brought together with no rehearsal at all!

Anthea Denham then led us in prayer and we joined for coffee/tea and mince pies after the service. A big thank you to all who helped in whatever way.

Clare Jenkins

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Thank you, Lord Jesus for your care in 2022 and for bringing us safely into 2023.

Whatever 2023 holds in store, try to remain firmly in Jesus Christ's embrace.

Try not to dwell on the sadness or fears of last year.

In this year 2023, go forward boldly in the power of Jesus, knowing we have Emmanuel, God with us, always. The Light of the world who shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. When in doubt due to the realities you see, try to see by faith and not by sight. Reassure yourself of God's forever faithfulness by singing or reciting the words of the much-loved hymn below instead.

'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.'

(Mary Bowley Peters, 1847)

Happy, Blessed, and Peaceful 2023.

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)