

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

JULY / AUGUST 2021

ISSUE 290

www.christchurchnsfb.org



PASTORAL LETTER

Well, it seems a very long time since I wrote a pastoral letter and so many things have changed in the last year. Many of us have been affected by COVID 19, either directly or indirectly and many people have suffered by being isolated, while health issues continue to be a problem. But one of the many good things to come out of “close down” has been the benefits of technology. Not only have we increased our contact by phone to friends and neighbours, church friends and family but those who have not used Skype before have been thrilled by the gift of Zoom that enabled several of us to see each other during prayer time after receiving the prepared service on line.

Christ Church has now installed cameras to enable us to live stream our services on-line. Songs and hymns are available to us in church and on-line at the same time, although we are not allowed to sing along until further notice. How marvellous it was to be able to join together and watch and listen to the service from the Baptist Assembly; 20,000 streams were recorded. Shaun Congun was particularly good with his sermon of life in Philadelphia with references to the stories from the bible particularly “You without sin may throw the first stone.”

In this past year we have been able to enjoy two weddings even though the guests had to be regulated by the COVID guidelines the service was also streamed on-line. How marvellous to enable these couples to pledge themselves to each other before God. We also had a blessing at Christ Church. So, the work of the Lord continues and cannot be thwarted by viruses sad though it has been for many people these passed months, may we celebrate the time when we may join together again in person in the not too distant future to praise and glorify the Lord for all his blessings.

Our Minister Ruth Moriarty has been working tremendously hard over these past months with the help of the Deacons and others. Soon we shall hear a summing up of the past two years at the Annual General Meeting.

Like many people the lockdown has given us time to look at where we stand and prepare to build on what we have. The future has always been an unknown but with our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and with His help and guidance we can work together to build our Church into a powerful presence within this community.

Sue Rogers

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH

(All at **11am.** unless stated)

Sunday 4th July – In-Person & Online
including Communion

Sunday 11th July – In-Person & Online

Sunday 18th July – In-Person & Online
including Communion

Sunday 25th July – In-Person & Online
Followed by

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 1st August – In-Person & Online
including Communion

Sunday 8th August – In-Person & Online

Sunday 15th August – In-Person & Online
including Communion

Sunday 22nd August – In-Person & Online
Followed by Church Meeting

Sunday 29th August – In-Person & Online

(JUNIOR CHURCH WILL BE HELD ON 4th, 18th & 25th July
BUT NOT DURING AUGUST)

CHURCH MEETING - Following service on Sunday, 27th June 2021

There was only one item before we had our Church picnic.

We have an opportunity to host a Baptist Intern. These are young people who are testing out their call to ministry who are on a year program to help them discern their vocation. We would have them to help us for 3 days a week and then there would be taught days as well. The only cost to us is to provide a host bedroom for them to stay in. So, anyone who has a spare room that could be used was asked to contact Ruth as soon as possible.

FAMILY NEWS

It is with much sadness that we report that Jean Kearey passed away recently.

After a fall at home back in February leading to an operation and then moving to a Residential Care Home near Enfield, where she suffered a further fall and subsequent spells in and out of hospital her health weakened, sadly leading to going back into North Middlesex Hospital where she died on the 23rd June.

She lived in and around Friern Barnet and the Southgate area and worked for some years in the Post Office that used to be in the parade of shops in Friern Barnet Road at the top of Beaconsfield Road.

Jean was a long-standing Church Member, attending Church regularly for many years right up to the 1st Covid Lockdown and was a loyal and much-loved member of the Friendship Club, having also previously helped at the Christ Church Women's Guild.

She will be greatly missed by many friends at Christ Church and remembered for her joyful spirit and gracious presence in our congregation. Jean was quiet, with an efficient way of getting on with things. You'd find her regularly, along with a few stalwarts in the Church kitchen on many an occasion, particularly washing up Communion glasses.

Whilst remembering Jean we also think of her surviving sister and sons, Alan and Barry and their families and all of Jeans extended family and friends and send them all our sincere condolences and pray for them all at this sad time.

Her funeral will be held at Christ Church at 11am. on the 7th July when we will remember Jean and celebrate her life. This will be followed by a short service at New Southgate Crematorium. It is hoped that both services will be available to view online.

We also note the passing of Betty Manning recently, another long-standing member of the Friendship Club.

Betty worked in Friern Hospital for many years before it finally closed and got to know some of the ladies from the Church who helped in the shop run by the WRVS and was introduced to the Friendship Club, where she was another one of the small group of loyal ladies who kept it going for so long.

Her funeral was at New Southgate Crematorium on the 15th June and was led by Reverend Robert Barthram, in accordance with Betty's wishes.

Betty lived locally throughout her life before spending her later months in a local Care Home. She loved cats and although not having her own, looked after neighbour's cats, including one called "Jerome". Along with collecting "Wedgewood", another love of her life was ballet, and she went to see many performances over the years.

We remember all those known to us who are bereaved at this time. Whilst praying for them, we also pray for all who are, or have been in hospital recently and those who remain unwell.

As the school summer terms come to an end, we think of all youngsters who have had to cope with a somewhat disturbed year of their studies. We pray for them and their parents and all families and trust that they might now be able to have a summer break and holiday, as Covid guidelines allow as we hopefully come out of Lockdown.

CHURCH PICNIC – SUNDAY 27th JUNE

Due to inclement weather, we held the picnic in the hall. Thanks to Paul and Roger we all sat at tables along the length of the hall in groups of 4-5. There were about 15 people in total. It was really nice to meet up and just have a chat with people.

We were also supplied coffee - another step back to 'normal' life.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

The postponement of the end of lockdown restrictions from 21st June to 19th July 2021 is a bit disappointing. One can only hope the restrictions will eventually be lifted soon.

I guess it is rather difficult to have hope when circumstances are miserable and show no major sign of improvement. Apart from the full lifting of restrictions, there are other things many had been hoping for but are yet to materialize. Such as, improved health; a new or better job; happier relationships or marriage; or a child.

I recently read the story of Hannah who hoped for a child in 1 Samuel 1. Hannah endured years of ridicule and taunting in the hands of Peninah her husband's other wife who had children. Elkanah, her husband also came across as either insensitive or not too wise. He believed he was enough to make up for Hannah's childlessness and could not understand her tears of sadness and frustration.

I guess most of us have insensitive family members or know downright horrible people who had bullied us for one reason or the other. The astounding thing to me was Hannah's noble behaviour. She refused to get into any arguments or fight with her tormentors but took her disappointment and request to God in fervent prayer.

We can all learn from Hannah's inspirational example. To ask the Lord God whatever you are hoping for in fervent prayer and trust Him like Hannah to answer. He can and will at the appointed time resolve whatever is bothering us or silence whoever is taunting us as He did for Hannah. He is our forever Lord God and His glory will always be magnified in our lives.

1 Samuel 1: 9-11 & 20

---Hannah got up. She was deeply distressed, and she cried bitterly as she prayed to the LORD. -- "LORD Almighty, look at me, your servant! See my trouble and remember me! Don't forget me!

So it was that she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, and explained, 'I asked the LORD for him.'

Ola Lawal