

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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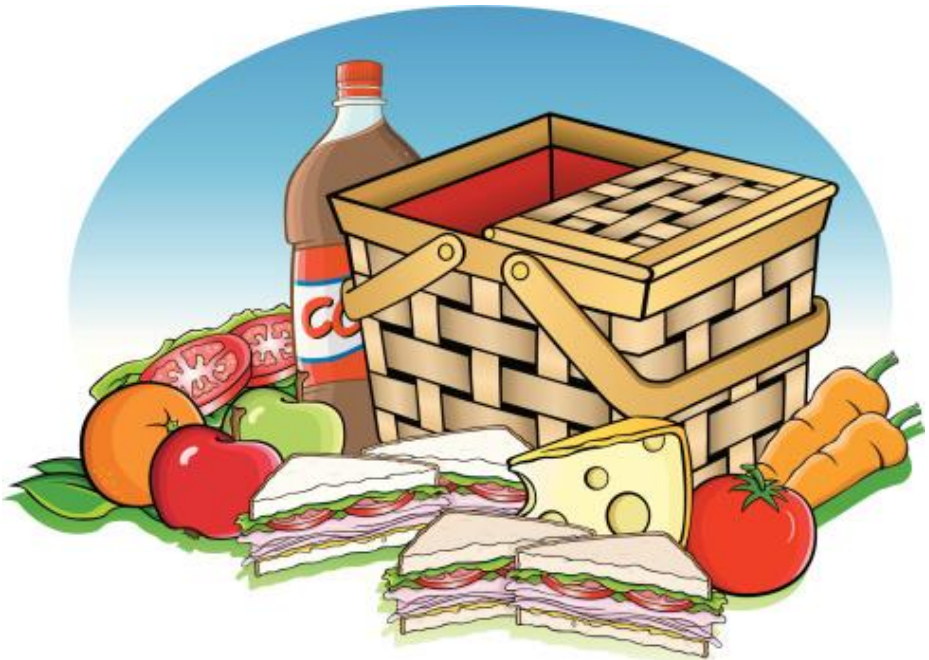
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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

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Church Picnic
Sunday 27th June

PASTORAL LETTER

One of the tasks of a Church Secretary is to give the notices in Church, or so I thought, I have yet to do this as Church Secretary. Another role is to report at an AGM - this I will be doing soon. The Deacons have decided to host an Annual General Meeting after the service on Sunday, 25 July 2021. At this meeting the previous year is reviewed with the main events highlighted and we remember those people in our congregation who have been baptised, dedicated, joined in membership or died in the period under review.

Our Church year for these meetings runs from 1 April to 31 March. Those more observant will have realised that we did not have an AGM last year either, as we were unable to hold meetings when we would normally have our AGM (a Sunday in May - often on one of the 2 Bank Holiday weekends). Everyone is welcome to attend and hear what has been happening over the last 2 years.

We are also organising another Church picnic on Sunday, 27 June after Church (12.30-2pm) in Princess Manor Park near the water tower. If it is very wet, we can use the hall. We held a Church picnic last year and this seemed to be well received so we aim to try this again. Please remember to bring your own food.

The other new task I have as Church Secretary is sending out the Church email on a Saturday. This varies in the time I remember to do it! as you might have noticed. We are now sending out to 54 people every week. If there is anyone else who should be on the recipient list or you wish to be removed, do please let me know.

Whilst there are advantages to electronic communications and emails, I think we are all missing person to person contact - I certainly am. So, I might email 54 people on Saturday and receive 6 - 12 emails booking seats each week; there are many people I do not see or hear from. This will mean some cautious and caring catching up when we do meet up again. So, many things may have happened, so many different experiences that we each may have had.

I just remind us all (me included) to make use of our Church directory and take the time to call, or arrange to meet up with, people we have not seen for a while. Being mindful that everyone's experience has been different. But all working together to build each other up in the love of God.

Clare Jenkins

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH

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

Sunday 6th June – In-Person & Online

including Communion

Sunday 13th June – In-Person & Online

Sunday 20th June – In-Person & Online

including Communion

Sunday 27th June – In-Person & Online

Followed by Church Meeting

then

Church Picnic

from 12.30pm. to 2.00pm.

(JUNIOR CHURCH WILL BE HELD ON 6th, 20th and 27th)

ADVANCE INFORMATION FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following the Service on

SUNDAY 25TH JULY 2021

FAMILY NEWS

We remember all Members and friends, in particular any who are unwell or in hospital at this time and we pray for a speedy recovery. Indeed, we also pray for all in need at present and think of all peoples throughout the World still struggling to cope with the Coronavirus, particularly those in India. We thank our NHS staff and all volunteers both here and those working abroad and pray for them all.

It is also good to think of some better situations, including the birth of little ones, some recently, who are the Great Grand Children of Church Members. We remember the recent “Dedication” Service here at Church, and also think of forthcoming Weddings, and purely now being able to meet up again with Friends and Family. Indeed, simply hearing from old friends by letter or phone is so lovely.

Now that the weather is a little better, we are thankful that we can get out and about to visit people and places, carry out well loved hobbies and pastimes, including “Reading”, especially for those who like to sit in the sun with a good book, or perhaps just go for a picnic somewhere (Don’t forget the “Church Picnic” on Sunday 27th June).

CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE

On the 9th May Ruth led a very special Christian Aid service. After 75 years of “Christian Aid” street collecting in the UK, we were unable to collect in May 2020 and again in Lockdown this May too. However, we put out advanced notices, appeals and posters. The Media also advertised the event. So far Christian Aid tell me the campaign is going very well. We opened with a welcoming smile from Ruth and “song” (no, not yet) we moved to the music! This was our 1st service using the brand-new on-line screening equipment. Robert and Diana did very well, operating this, having had training.

Ruth asked us to write out the alphabet on a sheet of paper and we used the initial sounds to write words of strong meaning for us, especially, reflecting climate change and effect of Lockdown.

Ruth then collected some of these words, many people had written down the names of their family members or animals. Sara Skinner read John 15 v 5-18 which begins with Jesus saying “I am the vine and my Father is the gardener” and “you are the branches”. This ends with Jesus commanding us to “love one another” as we are united and bound together, as friends and bearers of the vine’s fruit.

Using some of the Christian Aid’s materials we watched a video about Rose. She lives in Kenya and is battling the effects of climate change making life for her even more difficult. In Kenya they pray for rain and Rose has to walk 8km to collect water with her donkey. She says” Fetching water takes me 6 hours because I am old and can’t walk very fast. The drought has been so severe, we are suffering”. Added to her plight she lives with HIV and struggles to eat well due to lack of water for her crops. She is the sole carer for her six grandchildren. Christian Aid have been working in Kenya since 1997.

We can all do our bit to help slow down the impact of climate change. Ruth praised the prophetic voices now bringing the issues of climate change passionately to our attention. Some of us signed the petition calling for climate justice.

Ruth told us how Holly Park, year 4 classes had been to visit the Church, enthusiastic and lively children. Some had never been in Church before. As the former “RE” co-ordinator at Holly Park for many years, I recognised the description of Holly Park children, full of pertinent questions and interest!

They asked about the building, windows, Church features and Christian practices. Ruth had pointed out the beautiful vine designs with purple grapes on all the windows encircling the Church. These are a very special feature of our Church and symbolize the binding of our Church community to link together and know that Jesus is the vine and we are the bearers of the father’s fruit to work, love and serve each other.

Thank you, Ruth for a wonderful service.

Anthea Denham

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

How is your faith these days? Are you struggling to believe God sees, hears or love you? Can God still do the impossible, the humanly unexplainable or understandable? 'It will take a miracle for that to happen' is a rather common phrase. Meaning it cannot happen because miracles are far-fetched. Yet, we regularly hear and see God moving in various miraculous ways. Changing situations and people's life in small or big ways.

During this pandemic we have heard of patients, the doctors thought were goners, but lived to tell us about their miracle. People who lost jobs but got a new job unexpectedly. While some people got promoted at work, despite the media saying the economy will take a while to recover.

To me, these are some reminders that our All-powerful (Omnipotent), All-knowing (Omniscient) and All-together everywhere at all times (Omnipresent) God is the same today, tomorrow and forever. He can still move mountains and break down Jericho walls. In faith, (meaning explained in Hebrews below), take whatever is troubling you to the Lord God in prayer. Believe He hears you and can resolve it. Albeit not necessarily as expected but in God's better way. When He starts answering your prayers, remember to thank Him!

Hebrews 11:1 & 3 (GNT)

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. It is by faith that we understand that the universe was created by God's word, so that what can be seen was made out of what cannot be seen.

Ola Lawal

