

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

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www.christchurchnsfb.org



Christ Church NSFB Retreat

The God who restores us

Sat 15 June 2024, 10am-2pm
Speaker: Rev'd Rupert Lazar
Venue: St Margaret's URC, Finchley N3 1BD
All welcome

PLEASE SIGN UP TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

(MORE INFORMATION IN THE MAY NEWSLETTER)

JULY

Thurs. 4th 2.00 p.m. Women's Club in the Parlour

Sun. 7th

Rev. Dr. Ruth Moriarty

9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church

Our monthly Newsletters can also be viewed on our website (www.christchurchnsfb.org). Just Click on NEWS in the menu bar along the top. To go direct to the Pastoral Letter hover over NEWS and then click on the dropdown.

CHRISTIAN AID

Just wanted to let you know the amount of Christian Aid donations for 2024. We have raised the huge total of £596.10!!!

Thank you to everyone for their generosity, this money really does save and change lives.

Can I personally thank Anthea for always being there, it really is a team effort and as Anthea says close to both our hearts.

Thank you to Anne, Jane and Sue for the serving of tea and coffee. (Every week to be honest not just for Christian Aid). Thank you to Nora and Rebecca and Esther for always tidying up and just always being amazing. To Jane for her beautiful homemade scones with jam and cream. To Nora for her tasty homemade savoury scones.

To all those who brought friends and donated so generously- Just thank you, thank you, thank you! You are the best of people.

God Bless

Sara Skinner

PASTORAL LETTER

As I started to write this letter, I started to think what makes us a community and how we need to grow together to grow in faith.

So, I did what I normally do at this point, I looked for a Bible reference for community Life and I search the internet! Next time I might see what AI would suggest for a pastoral letter and sign it Chat-GPT... or maybe not.

The church can be referred to as the body of Christ, but what is a church community and how is that different than the body of Christ written about in God's word.

I read this in an article as I was thinking about this letter
[Www.forgeforward.org/what-is-church-community-build-church-community](http://www.forgeforward.org/what-is-church-community-build-church-community)

They define a church community as a group of believers, usually locally, that gather to worship, pray, get into God's word and do life together.

They use the example of the church in Acts 2 - their hearts on fire with love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit (and here is a link to Pentecost that we have just celebrated).

They met daily to eat, worship and be glad. Acts 2v42-47

This blog post suggests 3 ways to develop this type of community are to extend church beyond Sunday service:

Create connections beyond Sunday

Reach out through outreach

Point others to Jesus beyond Sundays

Activity we as a Diaconate have planned to help develop this type of community are:

Church shared lunch - an opportunity to bring a special dish and try dishes for other communities or to bring your own food and just be sociable with others as you eat. We do not mind which you do but I love trying food!!

Church retreat - a step up from just sharing food together as we will also have a focused learning session on regeneration led by Rupert Lazar the minister at East Barnet Baptist church. We will also share lunch (do you see a theme?) and also communion together.

To make travel to Finchley easier we can try to offer lifts from church for those without access to cars and or organise a bus travel group so that we can chat as we wait for the 382. There will also be a children's session with age-appropriate learning - volunteers to help with this are welcome.

AGM - practical work of our church for the year April 2023 - March 2024 will be reviewed and we can see how many things we have done over this time.

There are many ways you can be part of our community at Christ Church from those who pray regularly for the work, those who do administration jobs and the more outward facing job of presenting and publicising our services in addition to pastoral work of many of our community.

We are all essential to work together to do God's work in this area.

Clare Jenkins

FAMILY NEWS

We are aware of a number of our members and friends who have been unwell recently and pray for their good health and a speedy recovery.

As there are a number of events taking place in the coming weeks as shown in the Diary herein, we hope that as many as possible will be able to attend.

All who are bereaved and mourn the loss of a family member or friend remain in our prayers.

CHURCH MEETING – 26th May 2024

Present 18 (8 non - members) - Apologies were received from Ruth Moriarty, Val and Roger Oram and Lynda Eade.
Meeting opened in prayer.

The main item for discussion and decision was the plans for Pembroke Road. Ruth had prepared a briefing document that was circulated at the start of the meeting.

Clare explained the background from Ruth's document:
In 1900 New Southgate Baptist Church planted a church in Pembroke Road. Originally the two churches had a close relationship with New Southgate sending preachers regularly, however as both churches began to decrease in numbers, the relationship changed. Pembroke Road church was run as an independent evangelical church but ceased to exist in 2015. At this point the original trust deed reverted to New Southgate Baptist, and so to Christ Church NSFB. After agreeing a free three-year contracted lease with the trustees of Pembroke Road church (running a foodbank onsite), the lease ended on 15 March 2024, and Christ Church regained control of the site on 19 March 2024.

Diana, as treasurer, talked through document which was a proposal from the Deacons. This was that we, as a church, rent Pembroke Road out on a commercial lease. The site is restricted to F1 uses only (nursery, healthcare provider, gym, or place of worship).

The advantage of this is that we would keep this asset and generate general income for Christ Church. This money would replenish our savings now, offset loss of rental income during development and in the long term make it possible for us to consider employing a youth worker. If the rental suggested by a local commercial agent was realised, we would make the value in 16 years.

Advantage of a commercial lease is that the tenant is responsible for the property once we have established it to a good standard. The report and costs of this will be about £10,000.

Questions from the meeting included -
Food bank moved to another church – “Wilton Community church”,
Wilton Road N10.

Possible nursery was suggested by one attendee. This is something that we are aware of and interested in.

Proposal was put to the meeting to rent Pembroke Road on a commercial lease. The vote was unanimous amongst the members present.

Clare then reviewed the church activities over the next month-

Sara reported that we have raised over £500 for Christian Aid

Shared lunch Sunday 2nd June

This will be in the parlour. Note that currently we do not have a functioning fridge on site. Bring food to share and to eat. Parlour was preferred by the meeting as a location in preference to the hall.

Retreat – Saturday 15th June, 10am. to 2pm. St Margarets URC, Finchley, N3 1BD

Please sign up if you plan to come so we can plan for numbers. Will be a good time of fellowship and learning together.

Clean up at Grove Road before marketing again.

Ruth has circulated dates by email. These are weekday times as the first suggestion of a weekend date had very few responses.

The dates are-

Wed 5th June 1.30 -3.30

Thurs 13 June 10-12

These will also be put on the WhatsApp group.

The meeting closed with the sharing of the Grace.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

There seems to be a new Covid- 19 variant called FLiRT going around. The symptoms are like a respiratory infection, feverish temperature, cough, runny nose, and tiredness. It is debilitating and contagious. I had some symptoms like these in the last two weeks and thank Jesus for His healing. I pray for God's protection from FLiRT for everyone. Illness helps us to appreciate more, all that we take for granted when healthy and strong.

For me, it also helped to recall the reason we should always thank and praise God for His ever-present love, compassion, care, and sustenance. Let us make a regular habit of thanking and praising the Lord like King David in the Psalm written below.

Psalm 103:1-5 & 22b. GNT

By David.

Praise the LORD, my soul!
Praise his holy name, all that is within me.
Praise the LORD, my soul,
and never forget all the good he has done:
He is the one who forgives all your sins,
the one who heals all your diseases,
the one who rescues your life from the pit,
the one who crowns you with mercy and compassion,
the one who fills your life with blessings
so that you become young again like an eagle.
Praise the LORD, my soul!

Ola Lawal

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

Please remember that the Church Annual General Meeting will take place after the service on Sunday 23rd June '24.