

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

MARCH 2023

ISSUE 308

www.christchurchnsfb.org



19th March

CONFIDENCE

Devotional Journey

OVERVIEW

Christ Church NSFB Lent 2023

This 40-day devotional journey will help Christians grow deep, lasting faith- confidence so they can make a difference with Jesus in daily life.

Each day features a short reflection and a prayer prompt, both responding to a Bible verse. Throughout Lent, you'll explore six key ways we can grow in confidence, and reflect on six true stories of how Christians today have seen God helping them live out their faith more confidently.

Each theme covers six days: five reflections and a story. Because Sundays in Lent are traditionally set aside for reflecting as gathered church, you won't get a prompt on Sundays.

Join the Confidence Devotional Journey two ways:

- Via YouVersion app, by searching 'Licc confidence'
- Via emails from LICC, by signing up at licc.org.uk/confidence

London Institute
for Contemporary
Christianity

licc.

PRAYER MEETINGS IN LENT

We will follow this material together on Thursdays 8-9pm on Zoom, no preparation required and all are very welcome. Please find the link on the weekly church email.

2, 19, 16, 23, 30 March Zoom
6 April In person at church, 8pm

THEMES AND VERSES

Don't forget to sign up for daily reflections by email or YouVersion

Day 1 – Confidence grows through... Ash Wednesday, Jeremiah 17:7

Days 2–7 ...being convinced

Day 2 – Romans 8:38–39

Day 3 – Luke 24:36–39

Day 4 – 2 Corinthians 1:8–11a
SUNDAY

Day 5 – Jeremiah 1:17–19

Day 6 – Genesis 1:31

Day 7 – Greg's story

Days 8–13 ...community

Day 8 – John 13:34

Day 9 – Philippians 2:14–16

Day 10 – Hebrews 3:13–14

SUNDAY

Day 11 – Proverbs 27:17

Day 12 – Mark 14:32–34, 37

Day 13 – Deborah and Joy's story

Days 14–19 ... compassion

Day 14 – Hebrews 12:1–3

Day 15 – Jeremiah 38:11–13

Day 16 – Psalm 23:6

SUNDAY

Day 17 – 2 Corinthians 5:14

Day 18 – 1 Samuel 20:4

Day 19 – Brad's story

Days 20–25 ...consistent spiritual practices

Day 20 – Luke 5:16

Day 21 – 1 Thessalonians 5:16–19

Day 22 – Deuteronomy 11:18–20

SUNDAY

Day 23 – Matthew 7:24–25

Day 24 – Daniel 6:10–11 Day 25 – Tom's story

Days 26–31 ...competence

Day 26 – 1 Peter 3:15

Day 27 – Matthew 16:5–7

Day 28 – 2 Timothy 3:16–17

SUNDAY

Day 29 – Romans 12:3–6a

Day 30 – 1 Samuel 17:34–37

Day 31 – Emma's story

Days 32–37 ...courage

Day 32 – 1 Corinthians 16:13

Day 33 – Lamentations 3:20–23

Day 34 – 2 Kings 5:1–3

PALM SUNDAY

Day 35 – Daniel 3:16–18

Day 36 – Nehemiah 2:1–5a

Day 37 – Dembe's story

Day 38 – Maundy Thursday, Luke 22:15

Day 39 – Good Friday, Luke 9:51

Day 40 – Easter Saturday, Luke 13:55–56

EASTER SUNDAY

DIARY FOR MARCH 2023

- Thurs. 2nd 8.00 p.m. Lent 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
- Tues. 7th 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (Tuesdays until break)
5.45 p.m. Brownies (“ “ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “ “)
- Wed. 8th 8.00 p.m. Premises Group Meeting
- Thurs. 9th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club in Parlour
8.00 p.m. Lent Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 12th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Ruth Moriarty
Morning Worship – All Age Service
- Thurs. 16th 8.00 p.m. Lent Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 19th **MOTHERING SUNDAY**
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Parade – All Age Service
(Please note there will be NO Communion during the service today)
- Wed. 22nd 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting via Zoom
- Thurs. 23rd 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club in Parlour
8.00 p.m. Lent Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Please remember British Summertime begins tomorrow, Sunday 26th
and Clocks should be put forward by 1 Hour in the early hours!!!
- Sun. 26th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
Followed By Church Meeting
- Thurs. 30th 8.00 p.m. Lent Prayer Meeting via Zoom

APRIL

- Sun. 2nd 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting in Parlour
PALM SUNDAY
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
- Thurs. 6th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club in Parlour
MAUNDY THURSDAY
8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting at **Church**
- GOOD FRIDAY
- Fri. 7th 3.00p.m Service and walk of witness
Start from St. Paul’s; arrive at Christchurch 4pm
- Sun. 9th 9.00 a.m. Easter Breakfast in parlour
With communion
EASTER SUNDAY
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service

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 is with much sadness that we report the passing of Joy Macquire on the 13th January. Joy’s late husband, Reverend Clifford Macquire was our Minister here at Christ Church between 1964 and 1972. We send our condolences to her family and remember them all in our prayers. We think of all those who are bereaved and pray for all who mourn the loss of family members or friends at this time.

Some Church Members and other friends are unwell at present or undergoing hospital treatment and we remember them all in our prayers.

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

As I write this Pastoral Letter it is already Lent. The 40 days or 6 weeks of fasting, praying and reading the Bible as we draw nearer to Easter.

After Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, he went into the desert where he was deeply contemplating his future and ministry. He wrestled with the Devil who was trying to trick him into using His powers in the wrong way. Jesus resisted and recognizing the Devil told him, "Get behind me Satan".

The Lent period is very important in the Christian faith. Every year we have Lent Group Meetings. This year Ruth has given us a blue leaflet about the planned readings and meetings beginning on Ash Wednesday (22nd February).

We will be able to come together to discuss the readings on Zoom from Thursday 2nd March at 8pm. There are daily readings (only short) and I urge you to join in if you are able.

Reading is one of my greatest pleasures. I've always had a good book on the go since I was very young. Nowadays I have two books, one for upstairs and a different downstairs at hand. I can lose myself in a good story. I know many of you do too!

When I retired from teaching, I joined an excellent book group, part of U3A Belsize Park. Fifteen to twenty of us in "A Good Read", talking 5/6 books, a classic novel, a modern one, a biography or an autobiography, meeting every Thursday and often a book a week! This went on for 10 years. It was not easy keeping up but we had fascinating discussions which were wonderfully enlightening and into the bargain we made many lasting friendships.

The 66 books in the Bible provide the greatest resource of stories of rich characters and amazing accounts in both the Old and New Testaments. They are unforgettable and powerful, aren't they?

We will find out about Jesus' baptism and 40 days in the desert before he began his ministry on earth, in the early part of Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels. The account of Jesus' ministry, his meetings with fascinating characters and the events leading up to his death on the cross, plus His teachings and words of wisdom have transformed the World for over two thousand years. The Bible is the greatest library of books.

As March begins the days are lengthening, crocuses and yellow forsythia and daffodils are opening up. What wonderful signs of spring bringing us fresh hope and joy into our lives.

Help us all to be hopeful and trusting in God's "beloved son" Jesus and to re-read His life story

God Bless

Anthea Denham

MISSION GROUP

We usually buy Tesco food vouchers for the Family Resource Centre at Easter as well as Christmas. The Centre knows which families are in most need and we do help some of our own people, too.

Times are hard and many are struggling so if you are able try to put something aside as a donation it would be great. We will not be collecting yet but later on in March. Donation envelopes will be available after Mothering Sunday (19th March) and until Palm Sunday 2nd April.

Thank you

Anthea Denham

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).

MINUTES OF CHURCH MEETING

Held in the Sanctuary after Service on Sunday 26th February'23.

12 present, at the start of the meeting, (9 Members & 3 non-members), plus Ola, who arrived shortly thereafter, having been leading worship elsewhere.

Clare, Church Secretary, opened the meeting with prayer and started by thanking the "Minute taker".

The first item on the agenda is the Change of Signatures on the Church's Account with NS&I. It was agreed that Clare and Mary sign on the account and a Resolution to appoint them as signatories was completed and signed by Clare, Roger, Anthea, Ola and Sue.

The second item was the review of the General Church Risk Assessment which the Deacons had discussed in July'22.

Clare explained this covers the Life of the Church and issues that would be a significant risk and probability. We should be concerned about those with higher risks which are highlighted in red on the document produced to the meeting. There are some issues we can do little about but others where our actions can help. Clare, quickly referred to all relevant points where there is a higher risk.

Items with higher risks – 1.4, 1.6,1.8, 1.14, 2.9,3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 4.4, 4.6,5.2,6.7,8.1.6,10.6 were all considered (see attachments to Church Secretary's email 25/03/23 for full descriptions in Policy document.

Whilst we have little control over some areas, we can always continually learn more and should discuss with and make others aware, including parents and also keep neighbours informed of relevant events e.g. proposed redevelopment.

There are issues like "Lone Working" where everyone needs to be particularly aware of Health & Safety issues e.g. use of ladders and sometimes it is better for another person to be present.

If alone, ensure someone else is aware of where you are going and what you are doing and how long before you return in order they can investigate/raise alarm etc. should it be necessary.

Safeguarding issues are covered in our Safeguarding Policy (of which we should be aware), but we can minimise and prevent situations by having 2 or more people present when with children. It may be difficult to find volunteers but we should communicate and keep others aware.

Discussion took place when considering the risk surrounding “Live Streaming of Services” and it was felt it may be appropriate to get parents agreement when they arrive at Church. Anyone new to our Church should be made aware we use live streaming, including visiting preachers and how children may be involved in services.

The 3rd item was the review of the Safeguarding Policy (a copy of which was again attached to the Church Secretary’s email on 25/03/23).

There are only minimal changes from the previous version. The Policy, updated by Ola and Clare has been discussed by the Deacons.

Clare and Ola have swapped roles, with Ola now the Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Clare the Deputy Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

We have adopted and adapted the URC Policy document where the definition of abuse is more explicit and Child Sexual exploitation has been added. It includes Self Harm, Discriminatory Abuse, Modern Slavery, Online Abuse, Bullying and Harassment and Financial Abuse. When responding to concerns if abuse is suspected or disclosed, we will use the 4R’s which are universal in Safeguarding.

- 1 – Recognise the Concern
- 2 – Respond well, acting in an open and transparent way
- 3 – Record what has been seen, heard or said
- 4 – Report concerns to the appropriate people

Everyone has his or her part to play in ensuring the Safeguarding of Children or Vulnerable Adults within the Church.

If you have a concern, have witnessed abuse, or it has been disclosed to you, you must report it to the Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator or Deputy Safeguarding Co-ordinator within 24 hours. The only exception is if they are the subject of concerns, in which case you must report it to the Minister if not implicated in the situation. If the minister is also implicated, report directly to the URC Safeguarding Officer.

There are laid down procedures for reporting and there is a duty to report. The Deacons have discussed the situation and when visiting Children, Young People or Vulnerable Adults at home get the Ministers agreement. Guidance will be sought on who within the Church can and should be notified if an offender joins the congregation.

Ola has updated the list of helpful contact details and has a new email as Safeguarding Co-ordinator on which she can be contacted with any questions. The 31 page, document contains various Appendix and a printed copy will be available at Church.

Votes were taken for each of the 3 above items discussed and all were unanimously agreed and accepted.

Clare mentioned that the intended schedule of Policies up for review had slipped somewhat but it is hoped to review one Policy each month – Next month it should be the “Health & Safety” Policy.

When the Development Works progress the Sharing agreement will be discussed.

During the meeting the Church Directory was referred to and it was mentioned that a revised version is under preparation.

A passing comment was also made regarding the poor state of cleanliness of the sinks in the Church kitchen.

The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Many of us love Spring. It is the best time of the year for me. Not too cold or too hot. An uplifting time of the year after the long, dark, chilly winter. A great time to enjoy the awakening of nature, the beautiful flowers and the various creatures that had been hibernating in winter. Lent this year, is also in Spring.

Lent is the time we observe, in memory of Jesus spending forty days in the wilderness, being tempted by Satan. A time of spiritual preparation for His ministry. Some mark Lent by giving up on some treats, meals or doing more for others. However, it should also be a time of reflection on our journey with God and building ourselves up spiritually through prayer and Bible study. Building ourselves up spiritually will help to strengthen our faith in God. Renew our hope that He is already doing something new through His Son, Jesus Christ, and will make the impossible, possible in His own good time.

Isaiah 43:16,18 – 19 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says—
he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,
Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

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)