

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

ISSUE 266

www.christchurchnsfb.org

The logo for Christian Aid Week is a dark grey arrow pointing to the right. Inside the arrow, the word "christian" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "aid" is written in a much larger, white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Underneath "aid", the word "week" is written in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

**christian
aid
week**

12-18 MAY

DIARY FOR MAY 2019

Thurs. 2nd 2.00 p.m. Women's Club
5.20 p.m. Beavers (every Thurs. until break)
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts (" " " ")
7.00 p.m. Scouts (" " " ")

Sun. 5th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church

Tues. 7th 2.00 p.m. Friendship Club
4.15 p.m. Rainbows (every Tues. until break)
5.15 p.m. Brownies (" " " ")
7.15 p.m. Guides (" " " ")

Wed. 8th 7.45 p.m. Grapevine – in the Sanctuary

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12th – 18th MAY

Sun. 12th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service
6.30 p.m. CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE
Led by Rev. Ruth Moriarty

Mon. 13th 2 – 4 p.m. Meeting with CPL Architects - in the Parlour

Wed. 15th 7.45 p.m. Grapevine – in the Sanctuary

Thurs. 16th 2.00 p.m. Women's Club

Sun. 19th Mr Peter Griffiths
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church

Tues. 21st 8.00 p.m. Development Group Meeting – in the Parlour

Wed. 22nd 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting – in the Parlour

Sun. 26th REV. RUTH MORIARTY
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church

Thurs. 30th 2.00 p.m. Women's Club

JUNE

Sun. 2nd REV. RUTH MORIARTY
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee
will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11
at 8pm. on Monday 20th May 2019.

Please let us have your material for the June Newsletter
by Sunday 19th May.

FAMILY NEWS

It has been good to be with friends and families over the Easter period and a joyous time was had remembering together at our Easter Sunday breakfast and morning service and communion.

We have just heard that Tony has been in hospital again. We pray that he will feel better soon and send him our love and good wishes.

Please pray for all in need at this time, particularly those struggling and finding things difficult. We also pray especially for those individuals who have been involved in knife crimes.

Our prayers are also needed for all people throughout the world who have suffered during recent terrorist attacks and other disasters.

May our Lord be with you.

PASTORAL LETTER.

Dear Friends,

Summer is almost upon us again when we will be thinking of holidays. Like many of you, I like holidays. I like visiting interesting new places. Trying out the local delicacies and visiting places of interest at my holiday destination. I believe holidays are for gaining new experiences and learning new things like the culture of the people. This probably explained why I hardly go on beach holidays where I could sit on sun loungers and watch the world go by. It was always amusing reading all the tricks people used to get a sun lounger in a vantage position on such holidays.

Apostle Peter was a great traveller, considering the numerous journeys he took to spread the gospel. Most of his journeys were far from comfortable. He even got ship-wrecked in Malta. The reception he got at many of the places where he visited could hardly be described as an 'all-inclusive leisure holiday.' He was beaten, stoned and got imprisoned at some of them. None of these stopped him. He persevered with his mission. He tried to finish the race. He knew whom he believed in and was convinced that He is able to guard what he had entrusted to him until the end -
2 Timothy 1:12.

The task God had given to each and every one of us can hardly be described as an 'All-inclusive holiday' at times. There are days we will feel tired, despondent and even sorry for ourselves because we think the load is becoming too heavy. Jesus says, 'His yoke is easy and the load He will put on us is light.' Mathew 11:30. Our load only becomes heavy when we stop looking at the divine power of Jesus and focus on our physical strength. What more, He has left us with a Helper, the Holy Spirit, to guide and guard us. Do not grow weary running the race. Call on Him daily to grant you the strength and wisdom to keep up His good work. 'He will sustain you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.' 1 Corinthians 1:8.

God bless you and grant you all you need to keep up with His good work.
Amen.

Ola Lawal

MISSION GROUP

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to make up 10 food parcels for Easter this year.

I had planned to meet Pennie and Diana at Asda on Monday 15th April to go food shopping. Well, talk about the plans of “Mice and Men”!! Diana was unable to be there as Thomas had a very important hospital appointment and she needed to be with him. She had however been able to pass on the list of items to be purchased which I had previously sent her. We’d decided to make a few changes this time, adding pasta and rice and extra tea and coffee.

I, meanwhile, was in Birmingham from the 10th to 18th April with my daughter Tanya, clearing out my mother’s house which has now been sold. As there was such a large amount to do to leave the property empty, I was unable to get back to shop.

So, very kindly, Pennie agreed to shop as planned, with the help of Peter and Sue, who took on the job. Sue said they worked well together and I am much indebted to them for completely taking over.

For me, a huge relief and for Diana too! Thank you all so much. I know the food parcels were most gratefully received. God Bless You.

Anthea Denham

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE

For a wordy Welshman and a preacher, it is difficult to spend any significant length of time in silence so the outcome of the Tenebrae service was going to be a challenge for me.

I knew nothing of Tenebrae before the service and had to research it when I got home.

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE cont'd

I learned that Tenebrae is the oldest unchanged office in the Roman Catholic church and goes back to the 5th Century at least (400 a.d.). No Council or Pope has ever changed or modernised this service.

It is a service of “darkness” and is generally held at dusk so that at the end of the service the sanctuary is in complete darkness.

For the service of Tenebrae, the Catholic church uses what is called a “Hearse”, not what we think of as a hearse but a triangular candelabra with 15 candles on.

Hearse means a wolf’s tooth and is an old Germanic word. It describes the triangle shape that looked to medieval eyes like a tooth. 15 candles signify the 12 apostles and 3 Marys (or 2 Marys and Jesus as the last central candle).

In our own service we had 13 candles and 13 readings. Perhaps 12 apostles and Jesus?

The candles are extinguished to give an increasing sense of separation, of darkness overcoming the light of the world, of a sense of abandonment by Jesus’ disciples. This darkness will engulf the world on Good Friday and change history forever. In the end even the light of Jesus is extinguished.

We sang, we took communion, we listened to a chant from Taize and a piece from the St Matthew Passion by Bach and although the mood was sombre, and the darkness heightened the meaning of the cross it was not without hope.

The last act was to leave in silence and go home in the dark of early night.

I gave Kevin a lift home and unusually we were silent, we had experienced Tenebrae.

Peter Griffiths

GOOD FRIDAY

We gathered together on Good Friday morning at Christ Church, Whetstone to remember again the sacrifice that Jesus made for each one of us.

Rev'd Fred George led the service of bible readings, songs, meditations and prayers. The theme reminded us that Jesus' death on the cross was the single most inclusive act in the whole of human history. We, as a congregation, were invited to place a palm cross or a photo (of widely diverse groups and individuals) on to the cross. Fred asked us to imagine Jesus' outstretched arms reaching out to the whole of humanity.

Passages from the bible were read by individuals from both churches. Ruth shared a reflection on Jesus' silence in the face of his accusers, bringing to mind the many still oppressed and unheard. Joan led prayers of intercession, lifting up both the needs of others and our own need to respond to the challenge that Jesus brings.

We concluded with a time of fellowship - enjoying tea, coffee and hot cross buns.

Julie Duncan

THE EASTER BREAKFAST

Traditionally we have met before the Easter Service for Communion and to break our fast for years and years. This Easter Breakfast was really lovely with the parlour full of fellowship and rejoicing. Out thanks went to Val, Lynda, Anne and Sara, who prepared for this event, and Roger. We had Communion first led by Ruth. We prayed for the atrocity that had happened in Sri Lanka that morning, where hotels and churches had been bombed, in a series of well prepared, attacks. They were aimed at Christians and heavily condemned by faith leaders across the world.

When the bread and wine had been shared, we then had toast, boiled eggs, orange or apple juice, tea or coffee and more toast and jam. Delicious!

Many hands made light work of clearing away. Thank you to all who made this very special.

Anthea Denham

THE SERVICE ON EASTER DAY

The Sanctuary had been decorated on Easter Saturday by Sue Rogers and Diana, and team of volunteers, who had made a very beautiful flower arrangement. There was the empty tomb with the stone rolled away and poignant symbols telling the story of Passion Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday morning on the window sills of our Church. There were flower arrangements, a Roman soldier's armour and sword, a crown of thorns, the Last Supper and so on.

Rev Ruth Moriarty led our service opening with "Thine be the Glory" sung lustily. It's one of my absolute favourites. This was followed by singing "Oh Happy Day."

Chenika read beautifully from Matthew 28 v 1 – 12, telling the story of Mary and Mary visiting Jesus's tomb early on the first Easter Day only to find the tomb empty and Jesus's body not in there. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were met by a violent earthquake and an angel of the Lord who told them that Jesus was not there but as he had prophesised had been raised from the dead just as he had told them. They then ran to tell the other disciples the joyous news. Jesus then appeared to them too and informed them to not be afraid but to go to Galilee and tell his brothers to meet them there.

Ruth later pointed out this was a message given to lowly women who were mostly treated with little respect in those times, having no authority at all. The reports in Matthew, Mark and John of Jesus's resurrection are eye witness accounts preserved over centuries. Ruth's sermon was based on the reading which Chenika eloquently read.

At the end we were given a small, pretty egg with Matthew 28 v 1 – 12 on it.

We had a fun quiz with our congregation split into two! Some of the questions were really amusing and other questions proved whether we had really taken in this version of the Resurrection story. All I know is that our side won!

We then sang “Ancient Days” followed by Communion. Ruth explained in simple terms the story of why Christians share Communion. All, including the children were invited to go to the front where 4 serving Deacons gave out the bread and “wine.” It was wonderful to see so many people come forward.

Of course, prior to that we had been presenting our eggs we had brought to place in our huge white cross – another long-standing tradition.

We prayed for Sri Lanka, Notre Dame, the levels of violence in the world and asked to stand up together for an end to the dreadful persecution of Christians around the world. Ruth said we are all glad that parliament has at least acknowledged this and have agreed to address this issue.

Whilst sitting down we quietly sang “When I survey the Wonderous Cross.”

“Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my life, my soul, my all”

Ruth recalled the children’s story “Five minutes peace.” When the children pricked up their ears in response, she went on to say how we all need Jesus’ peace to heal our wounds; the kind of peace that places it in your heart, a peace full of hope, and asked us to go out and tell and do as Jesus bids us.

A large eye catching purple wrapped Easter egg was then broken into enough pieces to give us all a taste of the sweet chocolate, a symbol of the sweet news of Easter day.

Before the blessing we were to pray to change, to say sorry for our sins, to apologise.

We concluded with “There is a redeemer.”

This was a beautiful service for all to attend. Thank you, Ruth.

Anthea Denham

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 12th - 18th MAY

As I explained in the April Newsletter, we have agreed to fall in line with new guidelines this year, in recognition of difficulties delivering envelopes as it's time consuming and anyway most people have lost theirs from the day before! Everyone is crazily busy! So, we are only collecting envelopes from door to door.

We do need lots of volunteers to collect on only Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th May.

Sara Skinner has been allowed to take off those evenings from work and will be doing a morning shift only. That is so good of her. She is truly amazing and faithful to the cause. All the materials, envelopes, posters etc. are going to be delivered to me very soon.

Please, please sign up if you are able to collect.

On Sunday 12th May, Ruth has kindly agreed to lead the annual Churches Together Service for this area of Barnet at 6.30pm. at our Church. Robert Wright is seeking a speaker representative from Christian Aid, and we will be asking for some readers for the service from our church and other churches where appropriate. Afterwards there will be some refreshments.

Last year Ruth, Sara, Pennie and I went to the service held at New Barnet United Reformed Church. It was really lovely and enlightening. Please put it in your diary and come and join in.

Please help us stand together and support the very poorest people in the world through careful and thoughtful projects to aid the suffering who need our help.

Yours in Christ,

Anthea Denham

FINANCE UP TO 21st APRIL 2019

Cash	£382.49
Envelopes	<u>£490.00</u>
	£872.49

WOMEN'S CLUB

On 11th April we were entertained by a talk from Roger and Susan Day that they called: The Cruise That Went Wrong

Roger and Sue Day arrived at the airport in late November 2018 full of expectations for their long-awaited cruise. The first shock was to be told that there would be a 15-hour delay as their cruise ship had a generator problem. The second upset was on boarding the cruise ship in Oman to be told the cruise would miss 3 ports in Saudi due to the delay in departure. Arriving at Dubai the third announcement was that in order to fix the engineering problem they would not be moving for 5 days. The final disappointment came when they were told that the cruise ship would not be stopping at Mumbai because they were running on one propeller and needed to dock at Goa instead. As Mumbai was the point of their cruise it was now, they considered returning home.

The up side was that the cruise ship with its food, drinks, entertainment and accommodation hit all the boxes. Roger and Sue did see The Grand Mosque in Dubai which has a capacity for 1,200 people and is exquisitely decorated. They also visited the Formula Grand Prix race track at Abu Dhabi which is enormous. They saw Bangalore where the children were amazed to see so many Europeans.

Now back home they put in a claim for the ruined cruise and received a large refund. They then claimed loss of one day from their holiday from the airline. The result was more money than the cost of the cruise and the opportunity to book another cruise!

We saw some wonderful photos and heard great stories including the one where Roger Day takes over the control of a choir made up of holiday makers. I could suggest that one is only able to see the funny side when it is not you whose plans are being destroyed? Thank you, Roger and Sue.

We close for an Easter break and open again on Thursday 2nd May for a Bring & Buy. Do join us.

Jane Gibbins

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Another month has gone by so quickly once again since we last met together on the 2nd April.

We chatted far too long over our cup of tea discussing various things including what we did on “Mother’s Day” and topical items in the news, following which we read stories and other short readings.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday May 7th at 2pm. in the Parlour. This will be the last meeting before the summer break.

Please join with us if you can, you will be most welcome.

Gladys Townsend

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I like reading articles on health. Especially about the new things discovered which is claimed to be good or bad for one’s health. It is interesting how one research would say a certain food causes one disease and not so long afterwards another research would claim the opposite. The latest research I read said eating breakfast was no longer good for you despite the government’s guideline saying the opposite. The discrepancies simply confirmed we know little in reality.

Our all-knowing Lord is the One who truly knows everything. The only one that can save and look after His own in all situations as written in Psalm 91:14-16. Keep trusting in the One who can keep you safe from all hidden dangers and from all deadly diseases.

Psalm 91:14-16

God says, “I will save those who love me
and will protect those who acknowledge me as LORD.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
when they are in trouble, I will be with them.
I will rescue them and honour them.
I will reward them with long life;
I will save them.”

Ola Lawal