

# Christ Church

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(Baptist/United Reformed)

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## NEWSLETTER

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[www.christchurchnsfb.org](http://www.christchurchnsfb.org)

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## **PASTORAL LETTER**

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all well by the grace of God. It is so lovely that we can worship again in Church and some singing is allowed, albeit by the choir for now.

It was not the same seeing faces on Zoom or on line compared to in flesh, but glad we were able to see one another in one form or the other. Thank you to our Minister, Revd. Ruth Moriarty, our new Church Secretary, Clare Jenkins and our IT guru, Diana Bensted for their wisdom and gifts which had helped us to stay in touch as a Church. It had been wonderful to see many of you doing one thing or the other during the yearlong on-line services. At a stage the highlight of my weekend was wondering whose face I will see on each Sunday and hearing John Moriarty playing his saxophone. Thank you, John.

The 12noon Zoom chat and prayer on Sunday afternoons helped me tremendously to cope with the groundhog weeks of the first lockdown especially. It reassured me I belonged to a Church that loves and cares about me even under lockdown. I hope some of you managed to feel the same if not from the Zoom; but at least by the weekly newsletter; the hard copy of the Sunday worship dropped for those not on line; as well as by the monthly newsletter put together by Gladys Townsend and family and Clare Jenkins. I also hope the Church's WhatsApp group to keep all those on it abreast of individual or Church issues remained helpful.

I believe some of the various things you all did during the lockdown to help others in various ways made a huge difference to them. For example, Diana and Clare helped some to use Zoom, including me. Many got into the habit of calling others more regularly. Penny Bongomin cycled around paying social distance visits to Church Members. While some regularly prayed together.

What next, now that we are hopefully and slowly edging towards the end of the lockdown? It is doubtful Church will be exactly the same again.

We should try to keep up with the good habits and drop the unprofitable ones. Keeping our online presence by streaming the Sunday worship is a great idea. Building upon all the wonderful things we did during the lockdown will be magnificent. Keep on supporting one another with prayer. Give any help you can render to one another. Readily volunteer to help the Minister with the work of the Church.

Doing all these, can only enrich us and strengthen the Church. This I think is exactly what Apostle Paul means when he said ‘So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith’ in Galatians 6:9-10.

I leave you with Galatians 6:18: ‘May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, my friends. Amen.’

*Ola Lawal*

## **FAMILY NEWS**

We are delighted to announce a new addition to the Denham/Forward family. Luke Forward, Tanya and Gary’s eldest, and Kayleigh had a baby boy, Elliot Bruce Forward, on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. He will be known as Eli by family members.

Needless to say, we are all so happy for them. Tanya and Gary are thrilled to have their first Grandchild, not to mention Great Nanny Anthea and the rest of the family.

I will meet him on the 4<sup>th</sup> May, hopefully.

*Anthea Denham*

Our congratulations and best wishes to all the family following the recent birth of Elliot Forward.

We are aware that some of our Members and Friends are, or have been, in hospital or are unwell at home and we think of them in our prayers.

Many Friends have not attended our Church services, in between the periods of Lockdown over the past year, but we are delighted that some have now been able to come again since we returned in April. We think of all Members and Friends, including all those watching online.

Following our Maundy Thursday evening “Zoom” service and the Good Friday service on YouTube, we were, following the long period of Lockdown since before Christmas, again able to join together at Church on Easter Sunday morning for a Communion service.

Rather than Ruth preparing our Online services as she has been doing since last year, subsequent In-Person Sunday morning services have been available to watch on our Facebook or YouTube Channel – see information on our web site at [www.christchurchnsfb.org](http://www.christchurchnsfb.org).

## **SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH**

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

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – In-Person & Online

including Communion

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May – In-Person & Online

Service for Christian Aid

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May – In-Person & Online

**10.30am. – 11.40am** – Baptist Assembly Online Service

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – In-Person & Online

Followed by Church Meeting

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May – In-Person & Online

## **BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 2021 WEEKEND**

We will join with the national Baptist Union livestream service from the online Assembly at Church at 10.30am on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

The weekend has lots of seminars, bible study and worship to enjoy for free. Please check the programme at the Assembly website -

[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/247895/The\\_Baptist\\_Assembly.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/247895/The_Baptist_Assembly.aspx)

We will post links for the YouTube channel ASAP.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

Just a reminder and update that Christian Aid Week is very soon now.

Ruth is having a Christian Aid Service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

We are having posters to advertise this event for outside and inside Church, with details of how to donate this year.

Here are the details again of how to donate if you wish to do that.

- 1) Direct Online at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) (Donate button)
- 2) Telephone Christian Aid on 020 7523 2269
- 3) Send a cheque to Christian Aid, Income Processing Team, PO Box100, London SE1 7RT, although there is a delay in processing due to the current circumstances re Covid 19.

Please offer your prayers and support which make a life-changing difference to the communities that Christian Aid work with, whether it's fighting injustices, campaigning for change or responding to a humanitarian emergency, such as earthquake, flood, drought or volcanic eruption.

Climate Change is very much on Christian Aid's agenda and has been for many years. Many communities around the World have been devastated by incredible harshness, let alone the spread of the World-Wide Pandemic of Covid 19.

Blessings

*Anthea Denham*



## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

One thing the pandemic has brought to mind is the fact that we have no true control over anything. Now that we are hopefully edging towards some form of normality, many will be attempting to regain ‘control’. Devising various strategies on how to regain the old exuberant and individualistic way of life. I doubt this to be a wise forward.

Apart from acknowledging God’s greatness and His omnipotence at all times, our goal should not be on how to return to the status quo. It should be on how to try and live a better, more loving, and selfless, inclusive life, where Jesus reigns. A life where our foremost goal is to seek God and His righteousness as commanded by Jesus. It is only by so doing that we will thrive and prosper in all things just as our soul prospers no matter what the future may hold.

### **Matthew 6:31, 33-34**

So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

*Ola Lawal*

