

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

MAY 2023

ISSUE 310

www.christchurchnsfb.org



DIARY FOR MAY 2023

- Tues. 2nd 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (Tuesdays until break)
5.45 p.m. Brownies (“ “ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “ “)
- Thurs. 4th 8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 7th 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting in Parlour
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
- Wed. 10th 8.00 p.m. Premises Group Meeting
- Thurs. 11th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club in Parlour
8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 14th to 20th May
- Sun. 14th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship - All Age Service
Followed by Church Lunch in Hall for Christian Aid-See article below
- Thurs. 18th 8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 21st Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
- Wed. 24th 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting via Zoom
- Thurs. 25th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club in Parlour
8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom
- Sun. 28th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
Followed By Church Meeting

JUNE

Thurs. 1st 8.00 p.m. Prayer Meeting via Zoom

Sun. 4th 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting in Parlour
Rev. Ruth Moriarty

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

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

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).

FAMILY NEWS

It is with much sadness that we report that Dick Lacey passed away on the 20th April. He and his late wife Peg moved from Friern Barnet to Surrey a while ago and in the last few years Dick has been living in a local Care Home.

We send our condolences to his children and all his family and friends at this time and remember them in our prayers.

Prior to leaving Christ Church Dick had been a member of the Fabric and Finance Group, Newsletter Committee and a regular Steward – A dedicated and much valued volunteer. (Could you follow his example?)

Our thoughts are with all who are bereaved and mourn a loved one.

All members and friends who are unwell also remain in our prayers.

PASTORAL LETTER

What Would Jesus Do?

I am writing this before I preach on the 30th April, but I have been led, by the Spirit, to think a lot about this phrase.

A couple of weeks ago I was looking for a book to read on my Kindle that was non-fiction – I have a collection of Christian books, and I scrolled to the bottom and saw this and opened it – In his steps – I couldn't see the subtitle, but there it was - What Would Jesus Do by Charles M Sheldon.

The back cover says: “Sometimes the answer to one question changes everything

When Rev. Henry Maxwell asked the members of his small church to pledge not to do anything, whether significant or mundane, without first asking themselves the question "What would Jesus do?" he had no idea what the next year would bring. Neither did those who agreed to this seemingly easy task. One by one, their lives would change. But what they never anticipated was how their entire town would be affected.” It is set in the 1890's with the First Church having mainly wealthy and influential members of the community, who become intertwined with those in the community who are poor and live in squalor.

I started reading – and found it difficult to put down.

What Would Jesus Do?

The concept was first suggested by John Wesley – phrased differently - of Christian Perfection, when in a moment you are motivated completely by love of God and Neighbour, without ulterior motives. The outward action but by the effect of Grace.

The actual phrase was first written by Charles Spurgeon in 1891 in a sermon entitled ‘The Agreement of Salvation by Grace with Walking in

Good Works' which is a bit of a mouthful and refers to Ephesian 2 verses 9 and 10, although I would include V8 for context –

“8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (New Living Translation)

What Would Jesus Do?

And then the phrase came back into popularity in the 1990's with bracelets and keyrings, with WWJD, spawning a whole load of acronyms such as FROG – fully rely on God, PUSH – Pray until something happens, but although it is a worthy thing to become popular, it wasn't a real agent for change – just a marketing exercise.

But what do we think of these things today? Would you do as Jesus did? Would you – Could you make every decision in your life asking yourself If Jesus was here, now, what would He do? If you are a teacher – what would teacher Jesus do? If you are a plumber – what would plumber Jesus do? If an accountant – what would accountant Jesus do, If you are retired – what would retired Jesus do?

It would take real commitment, and actual suffering to do what Jesus did. When tempted, he refused, he got angry with injustice, he wept when he was sad, he associated with prostitutes and tax collectors – the despised of the world. He made disciples, and taught in temples, he fed people, he had compassion, and he took time away from his duties to pray. He loved us, all of us young and old,

Could we do even 10% of what Jesus did. I'm not sure, but what I will do is question my actions more than I have been, pray about decisions more, and really challenge myself by thinking

What Would Jesus Do?

Diana Bensted

CHRISTIAN AID – 14th to 20th MAY

Maybe you have seen the adverts on TV for Christian Aid?

At Christ Church we have always supported Christian Aid Week usually with a street and church collection. I have been involved since the days of Rev. Roger Scopes in the 1970's and 80's. The charity has been amazing in its outreach to the far corners of the Earth to help the poorest of the poor by providing seeds, tools, running water supplies, animals etc: so that families can feed themselves and be able to survive.

The street collections have been abandoned now as no longer feasible for our church and people rarely have cash at home.

We will have a Church service, collection and a shared lunch on Sunday 14th May in the Hall and we will need your help to arrange this.

Last year quite a few people took a number of envelopes (5) and invited friends, family and neighbours to a Coffee Morning or Afternoon Tea in their home. This is all to raise extra money for Christian Aid. We hope you will be able to do that again.

Sara Skinner has ordered all the materials needed – Christian Aid envelopes, posters etc. I am very grateful to Sara for taking over this role. She has been invaluable working on it with me for many years.

Anthea Denham

CHURCH MEETING - Held in Parlour after service on 23rd April'23.

1) Meeting was chaired by Church Secretary, Clare Jenkins and Robert agreed to take these notes. Attendance to meeting: 19 (15 + 4).
Ola Lawal opened the meeting with a prayer.

2) Clare read out an email from Mary Adjei (main item for the meeting)

On Monday, Mary Adjei emailed Ruth and the Deacons informing them that due to her mother's health in Ghana, Mary will be travelling to Ghana for a year to care for her mother. She will be able to make payments whilst in Ghana which is not an immediate issue but it does mean we need to find a new church treasurer to replace her.

3) The Deacons had an extraordinary meeting last Wednesday to discuss and propose a plan for how to move forward with this situation.

4) Discussing immediate short- and long-term plans.

- immediate short-term plan: Mary will be able to make payments from Ghana, Clare will authorise them and we can still use our bank accounts. Most of the transactions are digital made which is helpful.
- Slightly long-term (medium) plan: one or two other deacons will join online signatories so that 2 out of 3 can authorise each payment. This was a plan in progress before the church treasurer situation. Diana has volunteered herself till the AGM to take charge and make sure payments are authorised correctly. Diana and Clare work full-time with Clare acting Headteacher from the beginning of the year along with church secretary and now temporary church treasurer.

5) Church to pray for a solution/plan of how to move forward from this situation. If anyone is willing to volunteer, help or feel called to take on the role of church treasurer or other roles/tasks in and around the church to take the pressure off the Deacons, should talk to one of the deacons or Ruth.

Long term plan is to find a replacement treasurer.

6) Questions were asked and answered by Clare.

Four deacons present at the meeting and Rebecca who was not at church. To qualify to join the deaconate, having been in membership of the church for a year.

7) Jane asked about the update of the new church build and Chris asked how long for the plans to be completed. On neither point was there any change to the answers until Enfield Council complete the Judicial Review of the Planning.

8) URC 50th Anniversary service was attended by Ola and Clare. Ola enjoyed the service and her experience.

9) Sue talked about team who do a wonderful job cleaning the grounds.

10) Sue said Lily, who is experiencing a decline in general health from her baseline, requires more help and getting more tired.

Meeting closed in prayer.

EASTER DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who gave a donation toward the Easter vouchers mainly for the Family Resource Centre. Sue bought the vouchers and gift cards at Tesco for me and delivered them to the Centre. I am most grateful for her help.

The Manager had told me how much these gifts at Christmas and Easter time were appreciated.

Thank you everyone.

Anthea Denham

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I read the words of Jesus, 'Peace be with you' so many times at Easter that it felt like a personal message to me. After His death on the cross, the disciples were scared, anxious and in hiding behind a closed door. They had witnessed on Good Friday the suffering, humiliation, and the slow, painful death of Jesus Christ, their Rabbi, on the cross. They feared the same fate awaited them. Then Jesus came through a closed door and appeared to them. He did not say do not be fearful, worried, or anxious. All he said was 'Peace be with you'. Meaning, when they are in the presence of Jesus, there is nothing to fear. No closed door, anything or anyone could stop them from having His peace and joy.

Similarly, when we are in the presence of Jesus and we acknowledge Him as the risen Lord, our worries and fear will soon disappear because we believe He is all powerful and nothing is impossible with Him. Stop trying to resolve by yourself whatever is causing you anxiety or making you want to hide. Be in His presence, take it to Jesus Christ in prayer. He has also left us with His peace as written below.

John 14:27 (GNT)

Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid.

Ola Lawal