

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019

ISSUE 271

www.christchurchnsfb.org



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
10th NOVEMBER

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2019

- Sun. 3rd 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
4.00 p.m. Bereavement Service
- Tues. 5th 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (every Tues. until break)
5.15 p.m. Brownies (“ “ “ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “ “ “)
- Wed. 6th 8.00 p.m. Grapevine – in the Sanctuary
- Thurs. 7th 5.20 p.m. Beavers (every Thurs. until break)
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts (“ “ “ “)
7.00 p.m. Scouts (“ “ “ “)
- Sat. 9th 10.30 a.m. Coffee Morning – Mission Group
- Sun. 10th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
10.45 a.m. Morning Worship & Parade – All Age Service
- Thurs. 14th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club – Christmas Cards
- Sun. 17th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church
- Wed. 20th 8.00 p.m. Grapevine – in the Sanctuary
- Sun. 24th Mrs Diana Bensted
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
12.30 p.m. Church Meeting with Prayers
- Wed. 27th 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- Thurs. 28th 2.00 pm. Women’s Club – Book Folding
- Sat. 30th 10.00 a.m. Advent Craft Café – In the parlour
10.00 a.m. Mini Bazaar – in the Sanctuary

DECEMBER

Sun. 1st 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting
 Rev. Ruth Moriarty
 11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church

GARDENING - 16th NOVEMBER

Volunteers needed to help with gardening of the church grounds. Please join us if you can spare an hour or two. This may be the last opportunity to clear the church grounds before Christmas. No previous gardening experience necessary. Tools are available, also gardening gloves, and refreshments will be provided.

ADVENT CRAFT CAFÉ – 30th NOVEMBER

Come along to our “Advent Craft Café” on Saturday 30th November from 10am. to 1pm. in the parlour. Especially for families and children. Come and make an Advent calendar or wreath and learn about Advent (Suggested donation £1 per person). Coffee, tea and treats for all.

Old baubles and tinsel required!

We are hoping to make upcycled Advent wreaths at the Advent Craft Cafe on 30 Nov. If you have any spare Christmas decorations that you no longer want, we would be happy to give them a new lease of life! Please bring to church before the 30th Nov and give them to Diana or Ruth.

6TH NEW SOUTHGATE BROWNIES RAINBOWS & GUIDES

The units will be holding a mini Christmas Bazaar in the Sanctuary on the 30th November at the same time as the Advent Craft Café. Please come and support us as we have to raise funds to pay our yearly Capitation fee to Girl Guiding.

Pauline has been busy making her lovely Christmas cakes.
See you there between 10am and 1pm.

The Guiders

PASTORAL LETTER

GOD IS LOVE

*“The one who does not love, does not know God, for God is love”
(1 John 4 v 8).*

God’s love for us is pure, passionate and unlike anything that we have experienced before. God accepts us as we are, our good deeds, our bad deeds, our sins, our past and our flaws, all are bared before His eyes, yet He tenderly reminds us of our worthiness for He wants to forgive, bless and take care of us with His unconditional love.

God’s love is eternal, His love never fails and we too can love like that, however our own strength and willpower is insufficient and we need the Holy Spirit to perfect Gods love in our hearts.

“No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another God loves in union with us and His love is made perfect in us” (1 John 4 v12).

The deeper and more intimate our relationship with God becomes the better we understand His love for all of us, and the easier it will be for us to love others as an act of loving obedience to God.

If someone says “I love God” and hates a Christian brother or sister that person is a liar for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God whom we cannot see? (1John 4 v 20)

Our compliance to God’s word stems from our loving obedience to Him who gave His all, so that we could keep on loving and giving in His name. It is only when we love God first and foremost that we reach our full potential for loving others, and as we grow in our loving understanding for God we begin to change and to see others differently.

“May the Lord lead you into greater understanding of God’s love and the endurance that is given by Christ” (3 Thessalonians v 5)

In reality, true love often happens when we give a willing sacrifice, in the knowledge that we will get nothing in return.

“Love is patient and kind, it is not jealous, conceited or proud. Love is not ill mannered, selfish or irritable, love never gives up, and its faith, hope and patience never fails. (1 Corinthians 13 v4-7)

This is what we do for true love, and we hope to experience this love and grow closer to God, so that we naturally begin to

“Love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (1 Timothy 1 v5)

For God’s love will never fail as God Himself is true love, God never fails, and no matter what happens in life always have a heart that is full of God’s love, patience and trust and never let the cruel utter darkness of this world harden your heart and soul.

“God is the light and there is no darkness at all in Him” (1John 1 v6)

*I stretch my hands out in the empty air
I strain my eyes into heavy night
In darkness Lord hear my prayer
And help me to see Your light
Anon*

God Bless you all,

Tony Fensome

WOMEN’S CLUB

October brought Autumn colours of golden yellow through to deep brown with leaves flying in the air and settling on the grass and pavements. The Art: Autumn Scene afternoon on the 17th had our imaginations working with some lovely results either in oils, water colour, crayon or pencil. Our meeting on the 31st was cancelled.

In November as we approach Christmas our craft afternoon will produce greeting cards and the next session a Christmas Tree made out of a paperback which will then be decorated. During this time, we share news, laughter and Christian Fellowship. And there is always tea and cake to complete the afternoon. Do come and join us. You will find dates and activities in the Diary page.

Jane Gibbins

FAMILY NEWS

Once again, another month has gone by and we will soon be moving into the period of Christmas Celebrations.

It was good to join with the Life & Mission Choir on the 20th October at their service of thanksgiving and songs to celebrate 20years. Sadly, only a few folk from Christ Church were there and others missed a lovely occasion.

They are reprising their production of “Light of Bethlehem” at Muswell Hill Methodist Church on Saturday the 7th December at 6.30pm. See leaflets in Church and make a note of the date in your diary.

Please also remember the “Bereavement Service” at 4pm. on the 3rd November and also our “Remembrance Service” on Sunday 10th November at 10.45am.

We send condolences to Sarah Hawkins and family following the passing of her father recently. Sarah spent many months looking after and helping her father before he died. We remember Sarah and others in our prayers and all who are in need or unwell.

On Sunday 27th October we prayed for Tony and Dee Fensome as they will be moving to their new home in Norfolk shortly. After the service we were able to reminisce and thank them for their time spent with us at Christ Church whilst sharing refreshments and cake. We wish them both well and every happiness. God bless you both.

We also send congratulations to Rev. Dr. Roger Scopes (a former minister here at Christ Church) who held an “Art Exhibition” of his own paintings at Thame Methodist/URC Church recently, raising about £1000 for Christian Aid. A few of us were able to get there and it was good to see and chat to Roger and Molly. We pray for them both.

Anthea has advised that the latest news from Christian Aid is that the National Street Collection Week has raised over £7million!

How amazing is that!

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING – OCTOBER 12th

I was beginning to get a bit worried about saying I would host this event as an extra Coffee Morning in October. Well, why did I worry?

Pennie was unable to come as she was attending a hospital in Cambridge with her sister who was expecting an operation.

Jane, Brian and Sue were also unable to attend as they were expecting a special visitor that day who was travelling by train.

Then, Sara Skinner said she was sorry but could not help as she was off to a Girlie Weekend in Barcelona!!

Well God always provides doesn't he!

Pennie's sister's operation was cancelled and so was Brian's visitor's train! Sara did go to Barcelona but promised a donation. Bless her.

Pauline (our Guide Leader) came in with a magnificent Macmillan cake in green and white icing. It looked like a table cloth laid with cakes and tiny cups and saucers and a wee tea pot! What a talent!

She also made many decorated cupcakes.

Naomi, my granddaughter brought, not only her new husband Chris, along but many delicious cakes she had made that morning! Half of them gluten free.

My grateful thanks to you all for coming and supporting this event.

Pennie and Ola also put themselves in the kitchen serving coffee and tea in their own inimitable way. My family came in full support, six members and Chris of course. Clearing up was soon done by many helpers, thank you.

Meanwhile, Pennie insisted I sat down throughout the morning!!

Oh, dear! But everyone knows I'm liable to fall down unexpectedly.

Cakes remaining were put out on Sunday morning and more donations were added to the Macmillan box. When I banked all the donations for Macmillan, we had collected £207.01 this week, to my amazement! Thank you for being so supportive and generous.

It was good to see Selina there too, a lovely new member of the Women's Club. The main cake was brought by Joan Gray and we consumed it at Women's Club; Delicious! Thank you, Joan. Macmillan will be delighted.

God Bless you all.

Anthea Denham

HARVEST SERVICE

The church had been beautifully decorated on the Saturday by a group led by Sara Skinner. The windows had been decorated with seasonal flowers and fruit.

Sunday worship, which was led by our minister Rev. Ruth Moriarty, welcomed the Uniformed groups and received the flags.

The service continued when 7 people were asked to face the congregation, each one holding a letter which spelt HARVEST. Out of this word we were asked to make up other words using these letters.

All gifts this year were donated to Homeless Action in Barnet and the congregation brought them up to the front.

Later in the service the minister gave us each a round disc and on one side we wrote a small prayer and on the other side we wrote our favourite food, we then put the discs on the sheet which was on the dais.

At the end of what proved to be a very lively and happy act of worship we were all invited to a Bring & Share lunch in the Parlour. This proved to be enjoyable and our thanks go to those who organized the lunch.

Lynda & Val

MISSION GROUP

After our Harvest Service at the end of September when we had all our gifts offered by you all for the work of HAB (Homeless Action in Barnet); Chris, Roger and I packed all the gifts of food, packets, tins of requested items plus toiletries into my car, a couple of days after the service. Chris and I took it to HAB and many volunteers came out to carry it all inside.

There was a wonderful aroma all around, even in the car park, of clean washing and perfume from shower gels being used inside. At 10.30am. the building was buzzing with people having a chat, a hot drink and coming along to ask if they could do their washing next!

There was a marvellous atmosphere of warmth and welcome. I went in and gave the £155 cash donations to an official at the office which included a gift aid. They were delighted! We also took donated good clothing. I have a receipt from them for that donation. Once again, Bless you all for your generosity and kindness.

Sadly, we are losing Tony Fensome, a fellow Deacon and faithful member of our Church and our Mission Committee. Tony took over as BMS Birthday Scheme Secretary from Doreen Gray some years ago. Well, he is going to hand over all the Birthday cards, records and receipt books back to me.

Please have a think and consider joining our band of now four people left on the committee. It's a pleasant job recording Birthday dates and sending out Cards. I will continue to bank it if someone gives money to BMS, to thank God for all their blessings of yet another birthday. We just need to give them a receipt. If you would like to do that job please speak to me and I'll explain the procedure more fully.

Meanwhile I am so pleased for Tony and Dee that they will be living in the fresh air of a Norfolk village, away from the deadly poison of London's pollution!

The Mission Committee and I personally, wish them a much healthier and a wonderful life in that lovely part of the world.

May God continue to Bless you both.

Anthea Denham

NOVEMBER COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday 9th November we will be having a Mission Coffee Morning in the Parlour from 10.30 am. to 12 noon.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Please pop in for a chat, a cup of coffee or tea and join in some friendly conversation. DON'T be shy, just turn up for the whole time or half an hour.

There will hopefully be some cakes, some gifts, if anyone feels like donating something; books, Cds, DVD's etc. All donations to go to Operation Agri, for their work this year with the villagers of Nepal still struggling after their devastating earthquakes a while ago.

They help churches, especially Baptist ones, with local support for agriculture and education of children, how to keep healthy and with their livelihoods.

We have not given to Operation Agri for quite a few years. We used to at Harvest time biannually.

Yours in Christ.

Anthea Denham

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee
will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11
at 8pm. on Monday 18st November 2019.

Please let us have your material for the December Newsletter
by Sunday 17th November.

CHURCH MEETING NOTES – 27th OCTOBER

This meeting followed a farewell drink and cake for Tony and Dee Fensome who are moving to North Walsham soon. They were given a card signed by people who had been present at the service and flowers from the service.

Present at church meeting: 16 members and 4 non-members

Meeting opened with the minister circulating leaflets for the Bereavement service on Sunday 3 Nov, will last 45 mins, with tea and coffee after. Ola to share her testimony. Think about who to invite and do so.

Advent Craft Café. Sat 30 Nov. In parlour. Aim to show Christian view of advent.

Both aimed to be Mission activities - invite people to them. For us to be a light in our community.

Minutes of last meeting on 22nd Sept were read.

Matters arising

All age practice of fire drill will happen soon. Signage and fire alert sounders have been installed.

Toast prayer meeting went well with 7 people present.

These notes (published in the newsletter) were agreed and signed

Anthea Denham was re-elected as a Deacon.

Followed by a period of open prayer for all these issues.

Policies up for renewal are to be discussed at next church meeting. Health and Safety and GDPR.

FINANCE FROM APRIL 2019 to OCTOBER 2019

Cash	£2759.29
Envelopes	<u>£4475.23</u>
	£7234.52

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE SCOUT GROUP?

I am pleased to say we are alive and well – but earlier this year it was very much ‘touch and go’.

At the end of 2018 our numbers in the Beavers & Cubs had plummeted – you could count them on the fingers of one hand, also we did not have any Scouts – and worse than that 4 of our younger leaders (those under 50!) became ‘non active’ – two had moved away, one was concentrating on setting up their own business and the other decided to pursue other interests.

The Scout Group in its present form can trace its roots back to 1955 at the Grove Road Baptist Church when the 92nd North London Group was formed – this became the 18th Southgate Group in 1968 in the reorganisation of the movement. Fast forward to 1980 Fr Guy Pope started the 25th Southgate Scout Group at St Paul’s. Two Scout Groups within 50 yards of each other did not seem viable so in 1985 they combined to form the current 24th Southgate Scout Group.

Anyway, faced with the dilemma of few leaders and fewer members - what should we do – should we give up – or try and carry on.

In March 2019 I wrote to the heads of local primary schools – St Paul’s, Holly Park & Garfield – the aim being to make an interactive presentation about Beavers & Cubs during an assembly and then give out information about an open evening on the 9th May.

Sadly, no response from Garfield, but we did an assembly at St Paul’s and two (infant & junior) at Holly Park. I had great support from Scouting colleagues in Southgate District and these presentations went down well.

At the open evening 9th May we had about 25 children along with their parents – nearly all from Holly Park (apparently St Paul’s did not send out the leaflets after the assembly – but we are going to try again soon).

Encouraged by this we continued with our Thursday meetings – combining Beavers & Cubs for the time being and at the end of the summer term in July we invested 3 new Beavers and 8 Cubs into the Group – all in uniform – also 5 parents regularly helping us.

Now in September '19 we did not lose anyone over the summer break and now have 15 Beavers & Cubs still with 5 parents giving some support and have a very active autumn programme, including:-

District Beaver Sports Day - 22 September - thanks to our star Beaver – Shae – we came joint first.

District Cub 5 a side football – 29 September – this was a washout – the finals were rained off late in the afternoon – but we did well to come 6th out of 11 teams.

District Cub Trek – 8km hike – 13th October.

District Cub bowling competition– 7th November.

This term we are looking at the environment and will be building bug boxes and hotels – which you may soon see in the grounds of St Paul's.

At the moment we have not started up the Scout Troop although we have had a lot of interest – because we do not have the leader resources (4 of the active leaders are over 60 – and are not as energetic as we used to be).

We are in great need of young(er) leaders – you do not need to be a super hero or have any experience, there is lots of training available (and its free) it also looks good on a CV.

So, if you can help us in any way – come and join the adventure and develop skills for life - contact me and let's have a chat

Francis W Mudford
Group Scout Leader – 24th Southgate

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Some of you might have heard of François Fénelon, a 17th Century French Roman Catholic poet, author, theologian and Archbishop. He wrote many Spiritual letters that have been translated into English. I first read about him from another article and decided to read the full letters.

He simplified prayer as follows: "Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell Him your troubles, that He may comfort you; tell Him your joys, that He may sober them; tell Him your longings, that He may purify them; tell Him your dislikes, that He may help you to conquer them; talk to Him of your temptations, that He may shield you from them; show Him the wounds of your heart, that He may heal them; lay bare your indifference to good, your depraved tastes for evil, your instability. Tell Him how self-love makes you unjust to others, how vanity tempts you to be insincere, how pride disguises you to yourself and others.

If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, troubles, there will be no lack of what to say. You will never exhaust the subject. It is continually being renewed. People who have no secrets from each other never want for subject of conversations. They do not weigh their words, for there is nothing to be held back; neither do they seek for something to say. They talk out of the abundance of the heart without consideration they say just what they think. Blessed are they who attain to such familiar, unreserved conversation with God."

François Fénelon's explanation debunked our belief or excuse of *'I do not know how to pray or what to say.'* We have ample suggestions here on how to pray. Try using some of them to help you pray. Prayer after all is the door to our shalom.

Ephesians 6:18

---Pray on every occasion, as the spirit leads. For this reason, keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray at all times.

Ola Lawal