

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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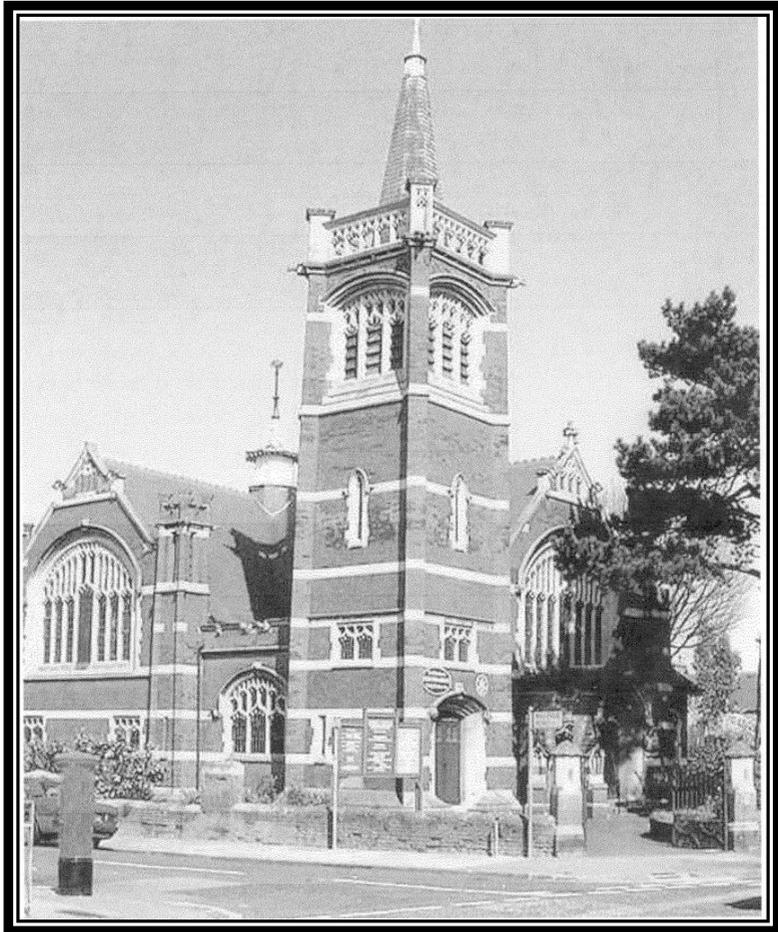
Grove Road
N11 1LX
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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

ISSUE 281

www.christchurchnsfb.org



PASTORAL LETTER

At the closing service for Grove Road we were given a copy of the history of the church, which is a fascinating read.

I was struck by one line in the booklet.

Following a direct hit from a German "Doodlebug" which severely damaged the Church building and totally destroyed the halls the Historian records. "It could perhaps be said of the Church at this time "This was their finest hour"- for the Fellowship realised, in its homelessness, that its existence was not dependent on a house made by hands. The Church was indestructible and the gates of hell could not prevail against it".

The parallel with Covid-19, whilst not being a direct correlation, has at least brought out the same fundamental message.

In our current "homelessness", our restriction on meeting or functioning as a local worshipping fellowship, many Christians are re-discovering that the Fellowship is the most important thing, and if that survives this crisis we will rebuild and the gates of hell will not prevail.

The historian also tells us that on the very day the bombing occurred a group of volunteers began first aid and salvage work on the building. What they built was not only a sanctuary and new hall but a fellowship ready for the post-war challenges of Christian witness in the area.

Ruth looking us in the eye aptly challenged us to "GO, GO, GO" and make disciples, build a fellowship, a sanctuary and meet the challenges of the "new normal", just like they did in 1944.

Are we up to it?

Peter Griffiths

GROVE ROAD CLOSING SERVICE

At 2pm on Sunday 27th September, 22 people met at the Grove Road Christian Centre for a service of celebration to mark the closing of the site. This was our first service since March and lockdown, so it was very different from how we had been used to meeting.

The hall was laid out in a very spread out pattern with each group separated from others by 2 meters following government guidelines. Groups varied in size from 4 to single people. Everyone had had to book with me before the service for me to be able to plan and place out the arrangement of seats. Everyone was greeted outside and then given hand sanitizer before being shown to their seat.

The service was led by Ruth with Ola Lawal assisting her. The service was very similar to the recorded You Tube service and the sermon was the same. This means that the sermon is available for all to see on our You Tube channel or to read on the PDF file on our website.

Ruth highlighted the very missional attitude of the New Southgate Baptist Church from its founding, being involved in the founding of at least 4 other Baptist churches in the area and sending missionaries abroad.

Clare Jenkins

FAMILY NEWS

We remember all people around the World at this time who sadly continue to suffer from Coronavirus including some within our own community. Please pray for everyone and for a full and speedy recovery.

Some of our own folk have had to attend hospital, or are about to, for various ailments and injuries, broken bones etc. and we think of them all in our prayers.

PERFECT PEACE

(Isaiah 26 V 3) “You will keep Him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you because He trusts in you”

The world as we used to know it has been turned upside down thanks to Covid-19 and it is a frightening existence. Our world is now a wilderness filled with violence, its creatures are dazed, sick, hungry, homeless and angry. Oppression, crime and injustice flourish, blood often flows in the streets. We can hardly see the blue sky by day or the stars by night, or hear the song of birds, or the tolling of church bells.

In this world perfect peace is difficult to even imagine, yet there is this promise from the word of God to help us. Our world offers a very selfish peace, but God’s peace is perfect. There are times when we just need to take a deep breath and say “Father I need You, and I need this perfect peace that You have promised.”

Too often we listen to the cares of the world and what is happening around us, instead of setting our minds on God, we must not ignore the suffering but we must keep God and His word uppermost in our thoughts, and if we do this, we will feel His perfect peace in our lives.

Tony Fensome



RE-OPENING CHRIST CHURCH

Dear all,

I am delighted to share that we will hold our first in-person church service at Christ Church on Sunday 4 October 2020 at 11am.

The deacons and I have been working hard going through risk assessments to enable this to happen, for which I thank the deacons especially.

We want our church services to be as safe as possible for you to attend, so we will continue to offer a service on YouTube for all who wish to remain at home. The same service will continue to be shared by WhatsApp and delivered in paper printed form. We will no longer hold Zoom prayer meetings on Sundays.

For those who wish to attend church we offer a service that follows Covid-19 government guidance on public worship. It will be a short service (45 minutes) offering a screening of the YouTube video and opportunity to pray together.

We have chosen this model firstly to enable all of the congregation to be able to enjoy the same service wherever they are. As much as possible, we want the church at home experience to be the same as being at church. This is to support those who are shielding or in high risk groups to stay safe. We believe everyone has equal value and a right to access public worship and will continue to try to offer every person the same opportunity. By using this type of service, it is easier to switch back to online services if we enter another lockdown or have a positive track and trace event (which would close the church for 14days) and we can easily run this with our existing technology.

Please be aware this will be our first service with Covid-19 restrictions, for this reason it is *limited to regular attendees*. We want to be sure of our practice before inviting visitors to attend.

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER SERVICE

If you wish to attend Christ Church on Sunday 4 October you must do two things:

RISK SELF-ASSESSMENT

- Please complete the URC risk self-assessment form to consider whether you should attend.

TICKETS

- You will need to book a ticket by Saturday 3 October 12noon via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunday-service-tickets-120617499187> or by email christchurchnsfb.sec@gmail.com

This is so Clare can print a seating plan to share with stewards which reduces congestion.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT A NEW SERVICE?

1/ ENTRY

- All handles and rails will have been cleaned before the service begins and afterwards.
- You will be welcomed by a steward outside the building, please stand distanced at 2 metres from other attendees.
- Please answer the Covid-19 related questions
- Please complete the track and trace information if we do not hold your contact details in the church directory. A register of attendees will be taken. New contact details collected will be held and then destroyed after 21 days.
- You will need to wait to enter the building to maintain distancing
- If any person refuses to comply to these requirements or any others listed, we will ask the person to leave.

2/ SANITISER

- Please use hand sanitiser on entry and exit in the foyer

3/ MASKS

- Everyone must wear a mask, except for medical reasons.
- Masks are not worn by readers/service leaders when on the stage or in the pulpit. Readers are limited to two people at separate lecterns and the service leader who will use the old pulpit which is distanced from everyone.

4/ SEATING

- You must sit where the steward tells you to sit.
- You must remain in your seat and not move around the church.
- You must remain at a 2metre distance from each bubble.
- You may not be able to sit in a preferred seat if this seat is less than 2 metres from the stage or another attendee.

5/ SINGING

- No singing is permitted as it increases your intake of air.

6/ VENTILATION

- We are required to maintain air flow throughout the building, windows and doors will be open to achieve this.

7/ JUNIOR CHURCH

- Junior church will not be able to run at present, please keep children with you and ensure they do not leave their seats. Toys will not be supplied as usual but colouring and crayons available for each child in named bags for their use only.

8/ END OF SERVICE

- Please wait to be told to leave your seat by a steward. This is to minimise congestion and maintain distancing.

9/ REFRESHMENTS

- We are not allowed to share refreshments at church.

10/ FELLOWSHIP

- We are required to leave the building promptly after the service has finished. It is recommended that conversations after church are short, distanced (2metres) and outdoors.

11/ DISTANCING

- Please remain at a 2metre distance from each other physically where possible.

12/ TOILETS

- We are opening the disabled toilet only for use. We are limited the length of the service as to decrease the demand for toilets. Please avoid using the toilet if possible. If used, please do not congregate outside the toilet, wash your hands thoroughly and use the paper towels provided.

We have trained six volunteers to be stewards already, please if you are able to help in this way speak to Clare. We have begun a contract with a cleaning company who offer Covid-19 effective cleaning methods. We will be closely monitoring our experience and reviewing our risk assessment regularly.

Once set up for the service, I will share a short video to enable you to see how the building will look for Sundays.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

With love and prayers

Rev Ruth Moriarty and Deacons of Christ Church

020 8368 8157 revruthm@gmail.com

25 September 2020

We thank Ruth, Clare and the Deacons and others for ensuring the Church is ready for Re-opening for Sunday Service on the 4th October.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We don't really know where we are going or coming with this Covid-19. One minute it is diminishing and the next, places are being locked down again. No one truly feels safe from this silent, invisible enemy. Hence, the reluctance of some to go back to work or attend church even if opened. It is true we all have to assess our individual risks and decide on what is best for us.

However, we can only do so much to protect ourselves. Let us remember we serve an all-powerful, all-knowing God who loves us. Lord Jesus is the one who preserves and keeps us safe as written in Psalm 121. Let us try to remember this when fear raises its ugly head and hold on to it. Pray and leave the rest to Jesus Christ, our Keeper and Preserver.

Psalm 121: 5-8 (NKJV)

The LORD *is* your keeper;

The LORD *is* your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,

Nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;

He shall preserve your soul.

The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in

From this time forth, and even forevermore.

Ola Lawal

