

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

ISSUE 269

www.christchurchnsfb.org



Harvest Sunday
29th September

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

- Sun. 1st Mrs Ola Lawal
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service
- Wed. 4th 7.45 p.m. Grapevine – in the Sanctuary
- Thurs. 5th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club
- Sun. 8th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – Birthday Box
& Junior Church
12.00 p.m. Junior Church Teachers Meeting
- Tues. 10th 4.15 p.m. Rainbows (every Tues. until break)
5.15 p.m. Brownies (“ “ “ “)
7.15 p.m. Guides (“ “ “ “)
- Wed. 11th 8.00 p.m. Fabric & Finance – in the Parlour
- Thurs. 12th 5.20 p.m. Beavers (every Thurs. until break)
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts (“ “ “ “)
7.00 p.m. Scouts (“ “ “ “)
- Sat. 14th 10.30 a.m. Coffee Morning – in the Parlour
- Sun. 15th Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship, Communion &
Junior Church
- Tues. 17th 1.30 p.m. Development Group Meeting – in the Parlour
- Wed. 18th 7.45 p.m. Grapevine – in the Sanctuary
- Thurs. 19th 2.00 p.m. Women’s Club
- Sun. 22nd Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
Rededication of Junior Church Teachers
12.15 p.m. Church Meeting

Wed. 25th 8.00 p.m. Deacons Meeting – in the Parlour

Sat. 28th 10.30 a.m. Church decoration for Harvest

Sun. 29th HARVEST
Rev. Ruth Moriarty
11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Parade – All Age Service
12.30 p.m. Bring & Share Lunch

OCT.

Sat. 5th Church Retreat Day

FINANCE FROM APRIL 2019 to AUGUST 2019

Cash £1929.94
Envelopes £3122.23
£5052.17

August Communion collection of £14.90
for the Compassionate Fund

FAMILY NEWS

The holiday period is over and we look forward to seeing you all back in Church again. Sadly, some of our members have had accidents or are unwell. We wish them a speedy recovery.

As we move into the Autumn activities, the uniform groups return and we will celebrate “Harvest”. After the service on the 29th September there will be a “Bring and Share” lunch - See report and please give your support.

We pray for all in need and thank those who are always ready to help.

PASTORAL LETTER

Recently we celebrated 50 years since man landed on the moon. I am old enough to remember the event, staying up till 3:o'clock in the morning to hear Neil Armstrong say those famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind".

What I never knew until this year was that his companion Buzz Aldrin had taken communion in the Lunar Excursion Module before Armstrong did that first moon walk.

When they landed on the moon NASA had suggested a one-hour rest before the walk so that the astronauts did not rush and were in a calm frame of mind to open the hatch and leave the module.

During that time Aldrin said the following words over the radio to Houston control centre

"Houston, this is Eagle. This is the LM Pilot speaking. I would like to request a few moments of silence. I would like to invite each person listening in, wherever and whomever he may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his own individual way."

There was then a radio blackout and during that time he took communion.

"I poured the wine into the chalice our Church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements."

"And so, just before I partook of the elements, I read the words, which I had chosen to indicate our trust that as man probes into space we are in fact acting in Christ."

"I sensed especially strongly my unity with our Church back home, and with the Church everywhere.

I read: 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me'"

So, whoever we are and wherever we are we can only bear fruit if we are in Christ Jesus. That includes the surface of the moon or the streets of New Southgate & Friern Barnet.

That includes the planning for the moon landing and the planning for a new Church premises at Christ Church. These things can only be achieved in Him.

Peter Griffiths

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING – ADVANCE NOTICE
SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER 10.30 – 12.00 IN THE PARLOUR**

On Saturday 12th October I would like to hold a Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The last one we had was in September 2016 when Naomi Forward, my granddaughter, hosted it, very successfully.

It is now 4.5 years since I was diagnosed with breast cancer and so far, I'm clear! There are a number of us at Church who have been treated successfully for cancer. I actually went to the Macmillan Cancer Hospital at Huntley Street, UCH on Euston Road for treatment and is where a number of us had scans or radiotherapy.

They are the most dedicated and wonderfully compassionate staff from consultants to the lady who helps you choose a wig and the girl in the little café. I cannot fault them and thank God for their care.

So please put the date in your diary and bring a friend along. That would be great!

Cheers!

Anthea Denham

MISSION GROUP

We hope you had a wonderful summer. I apologize for not returning your Mission Boxes until now. Life was rather hectic for me with builders and decorators in the house.

Thank you for bringing in your Mission Boxes.

Here are the amounts collected – BMS - £61.76 and CWM - £32.00

Our Harvest service is on Sunday 29th September. Last year we decided to give all to HAB (Homeless Action in Barnet) rather than give again to Christian Aid, alternating with Operation Agri each Harvest.

HAB is on our doorstep in North Finchley and as Diana pointed out there is still a real need there to support the Homeless Refugees who go there for lunch. They are given a good meal Monday to Friday and they can see a doctor, a nurse, a dentist, have a shower as well as support to help them be re housed or find work. Those who run the centre are absolutely dedicated.

Ruth and I agree that we should support them this year too, with tins and packets of food, toiletries and clean clothing, mainly for men, but also women and especially shoes and new socks and new underwear. (Please see list of suitable, suggested and needed items for HAB below).

We will deliver whatever is presented at Church at that service of thanksgiving.

Last year we gave out envelopes for donations for HAB. They were delighted by our giving. Please give if you are able, cash or cheques made payable to HAB.

The Deacons have planned to have a “Shared Lunch” in the Parlour following the service on the 29th September. We would like all those who are able and want to share lunch, to bring prepared dishes of food, either a main dish, sweet or a drink.

These events are great when we can join together in the true fellowship and enjoy each other's company.

We would love to see you all there.

God Bless

Anthea Denham

Food and Toiletry List

Rice, cereals and tins of food. Coffee, tea, sugar, gravy granules of all types, pasta, cooking sauces, tinned fruits, tinned vegetables and tinned potatoes, jam, spreads, ketchup, mayonnaise, pickles, ready-made custard, tinned rice pudding, olive oil, tinned soups and cup-a-soups, pot noodles and tins of corned beef.

They are unable to store perishable food.

HAB feed about 100 people a day!

They also need the bare necessities, like shampoo, shower gel, shaving foam, razors, hand and face cream, after shave balm (lotion), toilet rolls and washing powder. Thank you.

WOMEN'S CLUB

We return on Thursday 5th September at 2pm in the Church Parlour after a long summer break to enjoy a talk from Tanya Forward on her life in Turkey. Tanya is a very busy lady with lots of commitments and we are very lucky to have her talk to us about some of the sights, interests and food that made her stay memorable. We meet again on 19th September for a Games Afternoon.

We enjoy afternoons of Craft, Art, Greeting Cards, Jewellery, and of course Talks. We complete our afternoon with tea and cake. What could be better. Do come and join us.

Jane Gibbins

THE VIEW FROM A PEW

by the Pevensey Preacher

Light of the World

There is a picture that hangs in the chapel at Keble College Oxford by the English artist William Holman Hunt, entitled -
“The Light of the World”

It shows Jesus holding a lantern, knocking on the door to a home. One of the intriguing aspects of the painting is that the door does not have a handle. When questioned about this the artist explained that he wanted to represent the imagery of the book of Revelation, specifically:



Chapter 3 verse 20 *“Listen! I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his house”*

The apostle John’s words and Hunt’s painting vividly illustrate the warmth and kindness of Jesus. He gently knocks on the door of our soul, offering us His peace and patiently waiting for us to respond. He does not open the door Himself, force His way in or try to impose His will on to us. To anyone who opens the door He promises to enter with the offer of the gift of salvation and a light to guide us.

If you hear the voice of Jesus and the gentle knock on the door of your soul, please remember that He is patiently waiting for you to open the door and welcome Him in, in return He promises that He will give you His strength and bless you with his peace.

FRIENDSHIP BASED UPON THE CROSS. MY TRIP TO THE USA BY PENNIE BONGOMIN

I met the late Eric Greer, Debi his wife and family, over 26 years ago at St Andrews, and we became very good friends within a very short time!

When Debi invited me to USA, to visit Eric's Mum Ada, their son Owen and the rest of their family and friends I had met and those I had not, little did I know the wonderful treat that waited for me in the USA!

We set out at the beginning of June from Gatwick Airport, on a Thursday afternoon, arriving at Denver Airport Colorado, the same day at 7pm, the times, so confusing! The weather was excellent. The security at the airport was very tight indeed!! But the checking was done very professionally, with great care and politeness.

We then took a shuttle bus to the car hire office, about 3 miles away, from the airport, where Debi had made arrangements to hire a car to drive me around during my entire stay in the U.S! After paper work, we were then sent to this huge car park with a fleet of different cars! A red one caught my eyes, so we took it.

So, we then drove to the hotel that Debi had booked us in for a night, about 4 miles away from the car hire. Before we checked into our hotel, we stopped at a Burger place for a takeaway. As we sat in the car ready to drive off, a young man knocked at the window and asked Debi the name of the car! Debi answered, "I don't know, have just hired it". We wondered why he asked! He then told us that he was looking for a car to buy and the car we had, looked smart and wanted to know the name. He then went around and back to tell us that it was a Chevrolet, and wished us an enjoyable ride in our smart car. We giggled, amid all the excitement, we did not notice that, as the engine starts, the name of the car appears on the dash board!

We arrived at our hotel and had our burgers and settled in. Debi who loves swimming woke up very early in the morning to swim. Uganda is land locked, I do not like open water! And not very keen on swimming.

After buffet breakfast, the next morning, we sat around outside the beautiful hotel grounds, the weather was good, then checked out at 12noon. It was time to hit the motorway to Casper, Wyoming where Eric's Mum and son Owen live.

WY has a bit of history. Is called "Home of Women's Vote." This year Wyoming celebrates the 150th anniversary of women's suffrage in the states. WY passed the first unconditional law in the U.S. permanently guaranteeing women their inherent right to vote and hold office, 50 years before other states did. And has been the home to many firsts for women, including the first female to cast a vote in a general election, and the first female governor was elected in WY, the first female jurors, the world's first female bailiff was from WY and the first, town, Jackson, governed entirely by women, the list goes on!!

Getting out of the busy Denver City was a bit dodgy. Our "technology gadget" kept confusing our directions, so Debi ditched it and used a map that she had as a backup. After asking for direction from a small town plus our map, we hit the A25 Motorway that took us to WY. It's a 6 hour drive to WY from Denver. Debi is a very good and calm driver, so we were okay. Besides, the motorway was very clear, traffic jam, was three cars in front of us, otherwise none at all!

Anyway, we had to take two breaks. The first one, after about 3 hours at St. Collins. We branched off at a "Rest Room," American version of Ladies and Gents area. There was a good parking place, and shelters with tables and chairs to sit and eat picnics etc. all around the grounds. There was a local museum, so we went in to look around. People there were very welcoming. I collect fridge magnets, so I looked around, and I picked a leaflet with Lightning warning very common in Colorado! On the other side surprise, surprise, there was a warning about my best friends! Rattle Snakes. I hate snakes!! It said: "Rattle Snakes live here! They are ecologically important, and they do not want to encounter humans". Definitely, they won't encounter me!! One of the warning was, to look before sitting on rocks. I told Debi that I was not sitting on any rocks till I leave the U.S.!! Strangely the picture of the snake was just like the one on the post card, Eric once sent us some time back when they were on holidays in the U.S.!!!

After lunch we started off for Casper WY. As we drove through, the countryside was beautiful. Green plains, rocky hills some with metal buffalos marking the areas they used to graze before humans moved in! Antelopes grazing on the open plains, ranches with cattle grazing, old and new oil refineries. And to top it all the Rocky Mountains of Colorado in the background, with the tops still covered in snow. Both Debi and I enjoy country music so we found a station that played the music, that was our companion till Casper.

We arrived at about 6 pm. Ada and her niece Jackie who had just brought our dinner, were waiting for us outside the garage in front of the house. She welcomed us with hugs. I was amazed when she introduced me to her niece, remembering my complicated and long surname! I had not seen her for over 14 years! Just that, was enough welcome!

After exchanging news, we had our delicious dinner Jackie brought, and retired to bed after 400miles journey, poor Debi driving that distance, while I just sat beside her like some princess! Saturday morning, Owen came to greet us and we then went shopping for Ada and looked around. Everything in America is big! roads, houses, shops etc. Saturday is supposed to be busy, but no rush at all. People seemed to take their time doing things. They smiled at us and said hello in the streets! Even the staff in shops and big stores, not only ready to help, but have the time to chat too! There are seats everywhere, in the supermarkets, Malls, outside shops, to sit anytime you get tired walking around, good for me!

Pentecost Sunday, we had been invited by Eric's late Dad's friends, Leigh and Ralph to worship in their church before we left London. Leigh is a Deacon in the church. Christ Episcopal Church. A wooden church built in 1800s. A small congregation but very welcoming. Everyone seemed to greet with a hug! The service was easy to follow as some parts were familiar. After the service the children went out to fly red kites for Pentecost. We all then sat down to what they called Ice Cream and fellowship. But the Ice Cream was just a small part, of food coffee, tea, soft drinks etc. Leigh told me that they have this fellowship every Sunday after service. There were small gardens outside the church where the congregation planted vegetables, food and flowers. A sort of fellowship really.

The rest of that week we spent looking around the city of Casper, the old down town, quite interesting. Popped in a shop selling cowboy boots and hats, the prices very high! Then coffee, lunch or both. Just chilling out. The weather was very good indeed hitting, 86F but very cool. Wyoming is quite high up, about 8000ft above sea level. The rain is quite heavy, sudden, and with lightning and thunder normally in the very late afternoon, evening and at night.

The second Sunday was very different! Ada took us to “Church of Christ”. A church tradition where Eric and Debi grew up. We were extremely welcome, with hugs etc. A big and beautiful round shaped church. But no cross in sight anywhere, and I didn't ask! We started with Bible Class (Bible Study), at 9.45am. We were about 60 people. The video was “The way to the Cross.” after which there was discussion just like our Bible Study here. Very interesting and powerful discussion. There were three other groups of Bible Class downstairs: Infant Class, Sunday School Class, and Junior Class! The main service then started at 10.45am. The church filled up. Very large congregation of about 150 that Sunday. All hymns plus music with it, was on the screen, on the wall, and so different from what I know. All hymns sang seated except the last. The service sheet had spaces to jot down notices as the preaching went on. I liked that as, I always like writing down points, as the sermon goes on! First two people preached then the Minister.

The Church of Christ, has more or less similar background or tradition, I noticed, with the Baptist Church and URC here. Their baptism is like the Baptist Church, here, they have Deacons and serve their Holy Communion wine, in small glasses, the same as URC and the Baptist Church, and they have Elders each with particular duty. Despite not knowing the hymns, I enjoyed the services very much indeed.

That Sunday evening after dinner Eric's mum Ada handed me a beautiful “Horny Toad Pin.” My last night in Casper! I had noticed them, all over the house on shelves etc. And a photo of the late Eric at about 6 years old, on the wall, holding a live one and looking very proud of himself! As she handed it to me, she said: “You are now officially a member of the Greer Family”. That was the highlight of my visit to the U.S. I felt quite honoured and humbled.

Apparently, this “Horny Toad”, holds a place of affection in the hearts of many south-westerners, from where Eric’s family comes.

The next Monday afternoon I said sad goodbye to Ada as we left for the last leg of my trip to USA. We headed back to Denver Colorado. Debi had arranged for us to go to Estes Park in the Rocky Mountains National Park Colorado, which cover 416 sq. miles. The Mountains form one of the world’s longest ranges stretching almost unbroken from Alaska to Mexico. She had booked us to stay for two nights at the Lodge within the park, and Eric’s niece who is a keen hiker around the park, offered to take us as she is familiar with it. As we drove to the park we were caught in heavy rain, lightning and thunder, we had to stop, so the leaflet warning about lightning I picked up on our way to Wyoming, came in handy! We were surrounded by beautiful orange rocks on either side, with a river flowing alongside. The words of the psalmist came to mind: “The invisible God is visible in His creation”. Yes indeed.

We were welcomed by the staff at the lodge and settled in for the night. The next day Racheal drove us to the park, the view was awesome, the mountain still covered in snow. The wild flowers, the rocks, etc. We saw Elk, the animals found there. Just walked around as Racheal went hiking. Looked in the park museum, watched its history at the museum then went back to the Lodge. Next, we were back on the motorway again, to Denver, to Eric’s best friends, Vic and Lynette, who had invited us to visit them. The next day, we visited Lakewood Heritage Centre, where we saw a school built in 1800s, old farm machinery and cars of 1930s etc. Quite interesting. And on the last day, their daughter and her husband invited us for dinner with entertainment! As we arrived, we were warmly welcomed, as usual with hugs. After dinner we were entertained with both gospel and country music by Charisa who is a Church minister, her husband Tom and their son Corna. It was an evening to remember. Not to mention the little dog, Pepper. We then drove back to Vic and Lynette’s home, having had a real treat! The next day after early lunch, we said goodbye, and headed for Denver Airport. We dropped off our hired car, then took the shuttle to the airport. We sat with Debi for an hour, then I said goodbye to her as she was staying on and I went through and flew back, after having a great time of my life and a trip to remember.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

I was given a pack of cards by a friend titled Joy & Hope. On each card is written one or two Bible verses and on the other side some encouraging words based on the verse. I felt slightly despondent recently and my mind went to the cards. I found myself asking the question can one truly be full of joy and hope when disappointed, frustrated and life is hard? I decided to read each of the cards. By the time I finished reading the twenty-seven cards, I truly felt joyous and hopeful.

It is possible to be full of hope and joy daily if we spend a bit of time reading or memorizing God's words. The eternal love, comfort, peace, hope and joy our Lord, Jesus Christ has given us through His grace is enormous. Try to keep depression, fear and anxiety out of your life by holding on to God's words. Below are the verses on two of the cards to share with you.

Romans 15:13 NRSV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 NRSV

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Amen.

Ola Lawal

The next meeting of the Newsletter Committee
will be held at 39 The Ridgeway, London N11
at 8pm. on Monday 16th September 2019.

Please let us have your material for the October Newsletter
by Sunday 15th September.