

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

ISSUE 291

www.christchurchnsfb.org

PRAYER - BREAKFAST - COMMUNITY

TOAST

1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 9AM
CHRIST CHURCH NSFB

Join us for a simple *free* breakfast and time to
pray, share and learn about Jesus together.

RSVP Ruth 020 8368 8157 revruthm@gmail.com

PASTORAL LETTER

This letter should be being read when students are returning to university or school and those that can are going away on a cheaper holiday. It is the season when our groups re-start if they have taken a summer break, but this year some groups will re-start after 18 months break due to COVID. This means this really feels like a season of new starts.

We, as Deacons, have planned a new activity for us to start in September and that is a weekly prayer meeting on Zoom. We have chosen on Zoom as this means that travelling time to Church is removed, as is the need for lifts and/or childcare. We do hope and pray that you will be able to join in at least some of these sessions on a Thursday at 8pm for 1 hour.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5408158881?pwd=ank5UmJGRGVMVXJWWFRSL1IPSVBnZz09>

Meeting ID: 540 815 8881

Passcode: ccnsfb

I wanted to find a suitable Bible verse to encourage us all to support each other through this changing time, but got distracted into reading Proverbs - not advisable! However, I eventually got back on track and was looking in this section from the end of 1 Thessalonians 5 that I think speaks to us at this time.

^{13b} Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

I am writing this letter before going away on holiday. We are going to Brixham in South Devon for the second year running.

Where we are staying is close to All Saint's Church which plays 3 hymn tunes on their Church bells daily at 8pm. This is because their first curate was Henry Francis Lyte, who wrote various well-known hymns including the following

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me His praise should sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

And I get to play guess that hymn tune to Church bells! He lived in a large house near-by which is now a hotel and does coffee and tea on the terrace looking over the sea. I plan to walk there and have a coffee and take in the view.

I hope and pray that we can support each other as things hopefully become more 'normal' and re-open.

Clare Jenkins

AGM REPORT

Secretaries reports were given by Roger Oram 2019-2020 and Clare Jenkins 2020-2021.

Treasurers reports - 2019-2020 prepared by Susan Rogers and 2020-2021 prepared by Peter Griffiths - presented jointly by Peter Griffiths.

Diana Bensted reported the online presence that we have

There was no Junior Church report as there has been no Junior Church during the COVID 19 lockdown March 2020-April 2021(more or less).

I am going to summarise both Secretaries reports and both Treasurers reports here, for your information

Secretary report 2019-2021

This two-year period has been very different due to the global COVID-19 pandemic that was first identified in China in December 2019 and caused disruption to life across the world.

During this period there have been 3 national lockdowns where churches have not been allowed to host worship services in a building by law. In between there have been periods where, some level of communal meetings have been allowed with mitigating measures of social distancing and mask wearing becoming the 'new normal'. The lockdowns meant that the AGM in June 2020 could not occur as meetings were banned (even work meetings were actively discouraged).

The groups that use our buildings have also been affected by these restrictions with meetings being unable to occur for nearly a whole year and then re-starting in some cases only to have to stop again with another restart happening after this reporting period (that is after 1st April 2021).

Meetings - both for worship, business and societies - have moved online using various platforms; in our case mostly Zoom and You Tube videos of services produced by Diana Bensted and our Minister, Ruth Moriarty.

On-going issues have carried on in the background.

Pembroke Road Mission now have a lease agreement with us.

Grove Road has been sold subject to contract and a closing service was held on 27 Sept 2020 and was a ticketed event attended by 32 contacts past and present.

The development project on the hall has been moving forward by the work of the development group and the architects.

During this year we have had no new members or baptisms because we have not been able to meet in person regularly. We have 4 people waiting to join when it will become practical for this to happen.

We have had one Church Member die during the period April 2020 to March 2021. Brian Gibbins died 5 November 2020.

Joyce Percy, a regular attender at Church, died on 15 June 2020.

We have hosted one wedding for Steph and Glenn Hammett which was limited to 30 attendees due to restriction but was a lovely celebration and happy time.

There have been positive points -

We now have a Church email list for communication purposes.

We now have a Church WhatsApp group to share good news and items for prayer.

We held a Bible study group over the summer which met online.

Lent prayer group met weekly for prayer during Lent - from 15-19 attendees

Communion had increased to first and third Sunday.

Treasurers reports

	2019-2020	2020-2021
Income	£117415.82	£182244.25
Expenditure	£141337.12	£191945.51
Difference	-£23921.30	-£9701.26

This shows that our expenditure has exceeded our income for the last 2 years. We do have money saved in trust for the Church and can use the interest from this money to help the running of the Church (this is defined by the deeds of the trusts). Funds were drawn down from both the URC and Baptist trusts to enable the financial life of our Church to carry on. We're also actively investigating claiming for some loss of income from lettings from our insurance. This pandemic has made a difference to our finances as we have had less income from lettings.

Make sure you are giving to the Church in the most tax efficient way. If you are a UK tax payer, make sure your donations are registered for Gift Aid as this means we can reclaim 20% of your gift from HMRC! If not, then make sure your gift is paid in £20 notes or smaller and the Church can still re-claim tax under the small gift procedures.

The AGM was followed by a short Church Meeting.

Ruth updated us on the progress of our grant application to the URC. We now need to make a short video for presentation at the URC Synod meeting when they will consider our application. Two new members were recommended from their meetings prior to lockdown and will be received into membership at the first suitable communion service.

FAMILY NEWS

We have received the following sad email from our ex-Minister Robert Barthram.

God bless you all.

Shona has asked me to email Christ Church to pass on her sad news.

Her son Harry was severely disabled due to the mistakes in the maternity unit at his birth, he had fought many battles in his short life and won but this week it was one too many, this time his condition deteriorated and early Thursday morning he died at Evelina Hospital.

Shona and Pete are devastated but life goes on with their two year old daughter Lyra and Shona is six month pregnant.

Thursday was the day we had dreaded but we are grateful that Harry was part of our family and for all the love he brought with him, he would have been seven in December.

*Kind regards,
Robert*

We give thanks for Harry's life and the joy he brought to so many people and remember Shona and Pete and all the family in our prayers at this tragic time.

Please think of all who are bereaved and remember them in our prayers.

Sadly, there are many known to us who have been unwell and we also remember them and pray for their speedy recovery.

We think of all youngsters who have recently received their exam results and wish them all success as they go on to complete further studies or progress toward their future careers.

They remain in our prayers and we also think of all teachers as another new school year begins.

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Sat. 4th 3 - 5.00 p.m. Christ Church Party at the Manse

Sun. 5th 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting in Parlour
Rev. Ruth Moriarty

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

Thurs. 9th 8.00 p.m. Evening Prayer Meeting via Zoom

Sun. 12th Rev. Ruth Moriarty

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship – All Age Service

Uniformed Groups to restart this week

Thurs. 16th 8.00 p.m. Evening Prayer Meeting via Zoom

Sun. 19th Rev. Ruth Moriarty

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

Thurs. 23rd 8.00 p.m. Evening Prayer Meeting via Zoom

Sun. 26th Mrs. Ola Lawal

11.00 a.m. Morning Worship & Junior Church
Followed by Church Meeting

Thurs 30th 8.00 p.m. Evening Prayer Meeting via Zoom

OCTOBER

Sun. 3rd 9.00 a.m. TOAST – Prayer Meeting in Parlour
Rev. Ruth Moriarty

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

Sun. 10th HARVEST SERVICE – All Age

Sunday Church Services take place in person and are also available online and on our YouTube Channel – see web site for further info.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Summer came and went rather quickly. I noted many went on international holidays despite the unpredictable colours allocated to the country. The Government coded many countries based on each country's Covid-19 infection rates, as either 'Red'- High, 'Amber'- Average or 'Green'- Low. It was interesting to note some booked holidays based purely on the country's colour in order to avoid having to quarantine after the holiday. While some simply travelled as wanted despite the country's colour.

The other interesting thing was that the Government changed some country's colour from Red to Green, Green to Red and Amber to either Red or Green as the infection rates changed during these holidays. Meaning some of those who carefully chose Green destinations with the hope of not having to quarantine on return from holiday had to do so, while some of those who went to Red coded countries and expected to quarantine did not need to.

These observations got me wondering whether we should be basing our decision – making solely on our perceived reality. Or to trust Lord Jesus, who told us to not be anxious about anything but to take everything to Him in prayer first.

Many decisions will face us as we negotiate the lifting of the lockdown. Instead of basing decision-taking on what we perceive as safer, wiser or better, let us pray about it first. If we feel at peace after praying, to trust God and to go ahead in faith.

Philippians 4:6 -7 (NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Ola Lawal