

Christ Church

New Southgate & Friern Barnet
(Baptist/United Reformed)

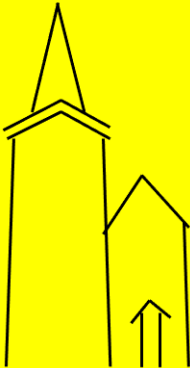
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NEWSLETTER ISSUE 324

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2024

www.christchurchnsfb.org

**OPEN HOUSE
FESTIVAL 2024**



Christ Church

Sat 14 Sep 10-3pm Cream teas, Family trail & games
Sat 14 Sep 2pm Church architecture lecture
Tue 17 Sep 11-1pm Quiet space for prayer & reflection
Fri 20 Sep 7-9.30pm Life & Mission choir concert
All events are FREE

Friern Barnet Road, N11 3EP christchurchnsfb.org

Welcome to our new termly newsletter!

We are delighted to offer you a new termly format for our newsletter. In this edition, you will find general service times, as well as key dates for the term. Our focus for the next few months will be on witness, membership, prayer and discipleship.

Open Church 2024 provides us with a great opportunity to open our doors to the community. Our church building has important architectural features and is Grade II listed. For this reason, our church can be listed on a London wide website for visitors interested in public buildings. We will be hosting an open day on Saturday 14 September 10am-3pm with cream teas, kids activities and a special guest lecture from Andrew Wood on the architect of our church George Baines (2pm). We will open for quiet prayer and visitors on Tuesday 17 September 11am-1pm and we are hosting a celebration concert by the Life and Mission choir on Friday 20 September 7-9.30pm. Please do sign up to volunteer to help run these events. We also need leaflets delivered in the local area, please take a bundle from the entrance table.

Membership is a critical part of Baptist and URC church life. We believe Jesus calls us to worship together and the Spirit equips us to discern God's purposes together at the Church Meeting. When we discern together at the Church Meeting, we are honouring the presence of the Spirit who enables all of us to speak prophetically as members of the body of Christ. From our members, we elect deacons to lead the church alongside the minister. Please read Clare's article and consider if you would like to become a member.

Prayer is a lifeline for a church, and we want to encourage us all to pray more and at a greater depth. When we pray as individuals, we begin a discipleship journey with God by listening to him and allowing him to guide us. Ola's article will inspire you to take up prayer. When we pray as a church, we are asking God to lead us by his Spirit to build the kingdom of God through the work of our church. A church that prays together is a stronger church, and we need to be rooted in prayer led by God as we try to be his witness in the community.

We are hosting two extra prayer meetings this term on Sunday 8 September at 12.30-1pm. and Sunday 10 November at 12.15-12.45pm.

Discipleship is how we learn to follow Jesus in our daily lives. This term we are introducing a new discipleship group on Wednesdays at 2-3pm at the Manse. We will be looking at 'The return of the Prodigal Son' by Henri Nouwen, materials will be available for all. Please do come and learn more about faith in Christ and his call to us to serve him as his disciples. We will meet 25 Sept, 2 Oct, 9 Oct, 16 Oct, 6 Nov, 13 Nov.

We pray that this term we will see the Spirit continue to bless us in faith, hope and love in us and our witness in our community.

May we know God's joy

Anthea, Clare, Diana, Ola, Rebecca and Ruth

SERVICE PLAN

Every month our 11am Sunday services follow this pattern

1st Sunday – Communion & Junior church

2nd Sunday – All Age worship

3rd Sunday – Communion & Junior church

4th Sunday – Regular service & Junior church

NB. If any 5th Sunday occurs – All Age worship

Sunday Church Services usually take place in person at 11am. and are also available online and on our YouTube Channel – Please search our web site regularly for any updated or additional information and also copies of our Newsletters. (www.christchurchnsfb.org).

KEY TERM DATES

8 Sep: Prayer Meeting 12.30-1pm

14 Sep: Open Church 10-3pm

17 Sep: Open Church 11-1pm

20 Sep: Open Church Life and Mission choir concert 7-9.30pm

22 Sep: Church Meeting 12.30pm

25 Sep: Discipleship group, 2-3pm Manse

2 Oct: Discipleship group, 2-3pm Manse

9 Oct: Discipleship group, 2-3pm Manse

13 Oct: Harvest (collection for HAB)

Followed by Shared Lunch

16 Oct: Discipleship group, 2-3pm Manse

20 Oct: Guest speaker-Rev. Dr Simon Woodman, Bloomsbury Baptist

27 Oct: Church Meeting 12.30pm

6 Nov: Discipleship group, 2-3pm Manse

10 Nov: Remembrance service, 10.45am.

Prayer Meeting 12.15-12.45pm.

13 Nov: Discipleship group, 2-3pm Manse

17 Nov: Bereavement service, 4pm

24 Nov: Church Meeting 12.30pm

30 Nov: Advent craft café 10-12noon

8 Dec: Toy service 11am

15 Dec: Carol service, 4pm

24 Dec: Christingle, 4pm

25 Dec: Christmas Day, 11am

MISSION GROUP NOTICES

HARVEST PLANS – SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER '24

We usually support HAB at Harvest time. HAB stands for “Homeless Action in Barnet”. As usual we will collect non-perishable items such as any kind of tins of food or pasta, rice, cereal, tea, coffee, and sugar. Toiletries are also needed.

The staff at HAB are volunteers and it has a facility for allowing people to see a doctor or dentist, have a shower and do their own washing in machines there. They provide drinks and food at lunchtime and is a safe haven.

We also plan a Harvest Shared Lunch on Sunday 13th October, at our Church too. Please try to come and share with others in Fellowship, eating together.

TOY SERVICE – SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER '24

All toys received will be given to the Barnet Family Resource Centre close by our Church. Please remember all toys that you donate must be in pristine condition or new.

Staff at the Centre look after children who are orphaned or in need of care after school. Many will not have any presents for Christmas apart from selected gifts from us.

Don't forget to put this date in your diary.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS FOR THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

We will be giving out envelopes from the 1st December for your donations for the Centre. We have been doing this for many years now.

The money raised will be used to buy £20 Tesco Gift Vouchers for people in most need that the staff there know of personally. We will collect all the donations by the 15th December.

Thank you for your generosity. These vouchers are gratefully received.

Anthea

PRAYER SESSIONS

The Spirit-led open prayer we had at the Church Retreat on Saturday 15 June 2024 went well and has prompted the minister, and the deacons to consider ways we could build on it to grow the prayer life of the church.

Why Pray?

Prayer helps to build our relationship with God and to know God better; It calms and restores our peace; It brings about God-given

changes which could be our circumstances as a church or us in ways that glorify God's name, so his kingdom can be on earth as it is in heaven. We also have promises in the Bible which assure us God hears and answers prayers. In Isaiah 65:24, God said, 'Before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear;' While in Matthew 7:7, Jesus said, 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'

I therefore ask you to make every effort to join the starter programme of discipleship sessions at the Manse and two prayer sessions on Sunday after the church service starting in September.

God bless.

Ola Lawal

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

What is a church member? Why do we need it? Am I still welcome if I'm not a member? Why do we have membership here?

Firstly, you are still very welcome to our services and activities whether you are a member or not!

But why do we need membership?

First, we need to say who WE are - Christ Church is a Baptist and United Reformed Church. Baptist is a UK denomination that prioritises the role of each church in running itself. The United Reformed Church (URC) was formed in 1972 from the merging of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches. Christ Church was historically a Congregational church. This means that the church was led by the local congregation in a church. Therefore, both of our constituent Christian denominations believe that the church is run by the congregation. To identify who is in this congregation we have membership. This is different from some other Christian groups like the Church of England and Catholics.

As a church we believe the Bible to be God's word. We believe that everyone needs to come into a new relationship with God, which is only possible through trusting in the death and resurrection of Jesus for our sake. We also believe that we have a duty and privilege to tell others about this and we are committed to proclaiming Jesus' love. We

welcome everyone to our activities however it is important that we know who is committed to the wider life of the church.

When someone becomes a member, we know that we can count on their active involvement. Clearly you might already be committed to the life of Christ Church – so then why not do it “officially”? It is those who have expressed this commitment and become members who have the responsibility before the Lord to prayerfully make decisions together at church meetings. The church to join is the one where, as you pray about it, you feel that you will grow in relationship with the Lord, you feel that you both give and receive from other members spiritually, and you can feel enthusiastic about what the church is doing practically.

The final decision in the life of the church should be made when the members are prayerfully gathered together. In membership we're not only wanting our own spiritual growth, but also the growth of other members of the church, and the extension of God's kingdom in this community. It means using the gifts that God, by His Spirit, has given us, being keen to help, support and build up members in the Lord, as well as giving financially as the Lord leads us.

Obviously, some will be able to do more than others, but every member should be willing to play the fullest part they can. This should include being a regular member in Sunday worship and prayerfully attending the monthly church meetings. The responsibility of membership really matters. The people that can vote in a church meeting where the decisions that affect the life of the church are discussed are the members. For example, recent decisions have been made about our development project and how we plan our finances.

From the membership, a group of 'officers' are elected. These are called the Diaconate in our church (Elders in some other churches). These are the people that make up the management committee with a Secretary and Treasurer - much like any society or charity would do. Interestingly, a local church has had to close because no one was prepared to be the Secretary or the treasurer, without people in these posts a church can not function. But equally the deacons can not function without a membership to support them.

If you have prayerfully considered membership then do speak to Ruth or our Church Secretary, Clare, so that we can discuss it with you. We will be seeking to confirm that you have a living relationship with Jesus, and that you are convinced that God wants you to belong to Christ Church. The members at the next church meeting will also need to agree about you joining and if the membership is in agreement, you would be publicly welcomed into membership at the next suitable communion service.

Clare

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Wasn't it wonderful to have such a warm Summer? I hope those of you who went away on holiday had a wonderful time as well as those who spent the Summer at home. Now the holidays are over, we are all back to the reality of our daily living again. That thing we are waiting for, which may be healing; new or better job; new or better accommodation; improved relationships at work or home; the right partner; or more amenable children remains the same. We are back to asking the questions, 'When will this difficult situation change Lord?' 'When will you answer my prayer?'

Try not to lose hope. Do not stop praying or living a Christ-like, obedient life. Things will improve in God's appointed time. It may not be exactly as we dreamt or hoped but Jesus will improve the situation in ways that prosper our soul and body. He will fulfil his promise to do new things for us as written below.

Isaiah 43:16,18-19

This is what the LORD says—

he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters.

“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

Ola

Slow wisdom



How do Baptists discern
the mind of Christ at the
Church Meeting?

Rev. Dr Ruth Moriarty

Thank you for all your support while I completed my DProf research into Baptist discernment which I finished in November 2023. I'm delighted to say the thesis is available on Amazon in print (£10) or kindle (£5) format. If you would like to buy it, search for 'slow wisdom'. Also, I am preparing to make a video course for Baptist churches to use based on the research. It will be filmed at Christ Church on Tuesday 15 October. I will need some people to be extras to voice over parts. If you'd like to be

involved, please do let me know.

Blessings, Ruth

AGM: Christ Church New Southgate and Friern Barnet Baptist/URC - 23 June 2024

Attended: 20 people, both members and non-members met in the sanctuary after church.

The meeting received reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and on Safeguarding. There was then discussion of these reports. The time period covered in this meeting is April 2023 to March 2024.

Secretary Report

- The Secretary summarised the activities of the church over the year noting the death of past church member Dick Lacey and also the deaths of others known to our church - Molly Scopes and Ray Mason. There were no marriages or births within the period. We welcomed one new member in April 2023 from Iran.
- We congratulated Rev Dr Ruth Moriarty on obtaining her doctorate from the University of Chester on Baptist discernment.
- The period covered two Easters. We have been doing a walk of witness both years jointly with St Paul's New Southgate.

- We also had Christmas services - Ruth was ill but we managed to still run the services.
- There was also a visiting speaker who was ill and Anthea and Tanya stepped up to take the service.
- We have used our preachers in our congregation - Pennie and Ola to lead our services when Ruth is on holiday.

Safeguarding Report

Ola reviewed the Safeguarding of the church. Highlighting the policy that we have and the relationship to the URC who we can use as a support and guidance portal. She drew attention to the new information posters that we have in church that are more colourful. URC Safeguarding training dates published - they are online.

- All DBSs for Junior Church team have been done.
- Major updates to Safeguarding national policy include: Domestic abuse bill which identifies children as victims if see hear or are victims of abuse.
- It was also pointed out that driving for church and giving a lift as a friend are different things.
- A voluntary driver agreement is needed when a driver feels it has become a responsibility on behalf of the church.
- All hirers need to give Ruth their safeguarding policy for us to keep on file.

Treasurers Report

Diana presented the accounts for the first time as treasurer. The summary is:

Income £93,897

(Including donations of £21,265 and rental of buildings £23,888)

Outgoings £81,849

You can see from these numbers that we have received more money than our income from donations and rental income. This is because we have drawdown from our reserves. This resource is not unending and we need

to work to increase our giving as our rental income will go down during the development.

There were questions on each report and then a vote of thanks to all people who work together to make our church work. This was backed by the meeting.

GIVING AND GIFT AID AT CHRIST CHURCH

You are welcome to give to Christ Church via your bank. Please use your surname as a reference to allow us to claim gift aid on your donation.

Christ Church New Southgate & Friern Barnet

Account number: 2059 6027

Sort Code :20-95-61

Gift Aid is a simple way to make your donations go further at no extra cost to you or us. We can claim back the basic rate of tax from HMRC and all you have to do is make a Gift Aid declaration. Gift Aid adds 25% to the value of your offering or gifts, so a £10 donation becomes £12.50, for £50 we can receive £62.50.

For the last 2 years we were able to claim £7424, so if you are paying income or capital gains tax, or tax on savings and haven't signed up, please let me or Paul know. If you are signed up for gift aid, but no longer pay tax, or have changes to your name or address, we need to know that too. Help us to increase our income!

Blessings, Diana

Gift Aid Declaration – multiple donation

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

Christ Church New Southgate and Friern Barnet

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title _____ First Name or initial(s) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.