

Winter

FOCUS

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Advent Message 2018 From the Moderator

The colourful autumn leaves and beautiful scenery fill us with wonder. They will slowly give way to cold bleak winter. Four seasons remind us of God's desire for change, diversity and rebirth.

Farming, fishery, food supply and small businesses face uncertainty while Brexit talks reach their height. The conflict within and between certain nations sees no end. Children suffer with malnutrition, unclean water and abuse. The need for foodbanks in the UK continues to rise.

We are called to share the good news of the Gospel in this context. The Great Commandment of Matt 28 is often read as discipling individuals. However, discipling the nations includes the free global market, politics, justice systems, re-distribution of wealth and care for the environment. What a challenge to disciple some of these faceless powers!

A band of 12 with the authority of the risen Christ set out to change the world. We do not lose hope of being God's chosen instrument in making a difference. We are not defeated until we accept defeat. In the Thames North Synod, we make small beginnings and one-degree shifts that ultimately lead to cultural change.

I have witnessed good news on my visits. A joyful event held recently at St Andrew's Borehamwood demonstrated that the closure of the church building will be a new beginning to engage in mission with Chesterfield Road church. New premises for Adeyfield, still under construction in the heart of Hemel Hempstead town centre, are stunning. The congregation is geared up to give all it must to share God's love in the community. I have been amazed at how the churches in the Local Area Groups support and care for one another. I look forward to all our congregations engaging with the Discipleship and Stepwise initiatives in 2019.

The URC is a rich Church but behaves like a poor one; a

strong church but behaves as though weak. Yes, we are like fragile clay pots, but we have spiritual treasure which comes from God. According to an Indian parable, the branches of a tree loaded with fruit lowers humbly and accessibly down to the ground, but a fruitless tree stands tall in pride. Our belief in God-incarnate reminds us of Christ-like humility. The fruits of the Spirit make us humble.

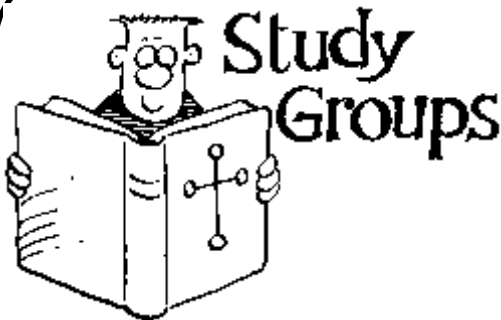
Some good news! Many of you have been praying for Jennifer (our daughter-in-law) who suffered serious illness. She is out of danger, improved and is stable. Thanks to God and to you for your prayers.

May, in this Advent season, the love of God prevail so that no one feels lonely or sleeps without food, water or a warm bed, and may the hope burning within us take away all of our doubts!

The peace of Emmanuel (God with us) and the melody of angels be yours in this advent season!

Andrew Prasad (Rev Dr)

Moderator
The URC Thames North Synod



You are invited to join the Lent 2019 Bible Study which will take place at Jill Adam's on the following Monday evenings:

March 11th, 18th & 25th and
April 8th and 15th. All
starting at 8 p.m.

Full details to follow

Thank you to Alison and the family for putting-up the Christmas Decorations in the Church. Your efforts are much appreciated.



**BARNET UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
WOOD STREET, BARNET**



Freshly Baked



(the refreshments, that is)
on Sundays at 6.30pm,

except the second Sunday in each month.

These informal sessions will take place in the Church Parlour, this is the room in which the Youth Choir has been rehearsing during December.

More details overleaf



Do you have a head for heights?
The lightning conductor cable from the top of the spire had to be reattached.



and before anyone asks, no its not Bob!

The Theme for Sundays in January is Gladness and Generosity

6th January

The Magi

13th January

No *Freshly Baked*

20th January

Simeon and Anna

27th January Abraham *and* Feeding the 5,000

(we will end with communion on this Sunday)

Our intention is to learn what we can, from one another and various Bible passages, about being Christians today. We will gather round tables with tea, coffee, cakes and savouries. Each week someone will guide our discussions—we will read that weeks story from the Bible, talk, question and listen for about 45 minutes—no more.

You are very welcome to join us—to take part or simply to eat, drink and listen.





Fri, October 4, 1918
HECTOR FRASER - 71
Captain (MN) - SS "Hirano Maro"
ON A MEMORIAL IN JAPAN

Thu, November 28, 1918
LEONARD A. BROWN - 30
Driver – Royal Army Service Corps
(RA 34th Army Bde. Late IEF)
LE CATEAU COMMUNAL CEMETERY

Thu, December 5, 1918
ALBERT W. HENTALL - 21
Air Mech 3rd Class – Royal Flying Corps
(1st Balloon Base (Aegean Group) Royal Air Force)
EAST MUDROS MILITARY CEMETERY

Ewen Hall Soldiers Hospital - Report 16 for October – December 1918

At the start of October Miss Winifred Game had a letter published in the "Barnet Press" regarding the Ewen Hall Hospital extension at the Town Hall by Mr W Pearson. There will be open days on Saturday 12th and Thursday 17th between 3 -6. Request also for cabbages and other vegetables from allotment holders due to food shortages. Barnet's wounded soldiers visited London by private train from Barnet Station to Golders Green then by tube to Leicester Square to see "Yes, Uncle" at the Shaftsbury Theatre followed by tea at Maison Lyons. This was the sixth occasion Alston Works had arranged such a trip. They left at 7 am and returned at 8.30 pm. Mr J Mann organised. *Mr Featherstone Robson [a Lane family friend] of Wrotham Road has had two pictures recently hung at the Royal Institute of Oil Painters. Given the gravity of the situation the paper has printed Influenza guidelines. There is a joke about 'Hints on War Savings' but it is not thought appropriate to print.* The month ended on a low with the Barnet Town Band concert at Ewen Hall Hospital cancelled due to influenza however Mr Whitefield was able to arrange an entertainment thanks to the support of local ladies and

gentleman.

November 5th passed off quietly at Barnet. In the morning the usual 'guys' prowled the streets soliciting contributions for fireworks for the evening. Later a few squibs and crackers and a stray rocket or two were let off. Due to a shortage of staff at the EHH scores of beds cannot be occupied

Monday 11th November 1918 - PEACE - *The news we had all been waiting for. Barnet beats London to the news and raises Union Flag on Parish Church and rings bells at 9 am. Schools opened and closed following singing of the National Anthem. At 11 am two maroons were fired from the Police Station. The 'All Clear' sounded on siren and bugle. At midday a service for school children was held where three verses of the National Anthem were sung with gusto. All shops had closed. On Saturday 16th 3-4000 gathered for the lighting of the Hadley Church beacon and fireworks. A thanksgiving service was held on Sunday 17th. Dr W. C. Poole from the American YMCA spoke at Barnet Congregational Church and to the members of the 1st Barnet Boys' Brigade Company. The council have asked the people of Barnet what kind of War Memorial they want. Sergeant Collis from Barnet Congregational Church had been awarded the Military Medal (right). Sadly it is now thought thirty two from the church are now known to be lost. The 1st Barnet Boys' Brigade Company Band played*



for the School Praise & Rally in the afternoon at which 450 young people attended.

The "Barnet Press" published a letter from W. A. Smith from the Ewen Hall Hospital who reported that on the 16th they been taken to watch Arsenal verses Fulham and all given seats in the grandstand. This was funded by donations collected on 11/11. Mr Willie Stevens kindly gave the smokes. *On Saturday last a Review by HM The King took place in Hyde Park for ex-soldiers - several Barnet Silver*



Badge (left) holders attended. The tower guard duty by Barnet Specials now been dropped. The end of the month Concert at the Ewen Hall Hospital was given by Barnet Town Band (Blue Boys) last Saturday. Milk price to reduce from 10d to 9d per quart from Monday next.

Barnet Urban District Council want a GUN! Barnet Girl Guides have raised £130 from their waste paper collections. Names of those killed are required by Barnet UDC and Barnet Parish Church by 21st December. Mr. Wayne gave a concert at the hospital. On Thursday December 19th the Thanksgiving Coral Festival given by the Barnet Congregational Church Choir raised funds for 90 Christmas Parcels for the boys. More soldiers are being seen wearing the red, white and blue medal ribbon as it has been decreed that, not just those who served in 1914 can wear it but, now those right up to December 1915. Some are not best pleased. Our church will hold a Commemoration Service Sunday next for the approximately 150 who served and 36 who died.





Crosses in our frontage planted by our Brownies for Remembrance Sunday

Gift Service 2018

The 7th Barnet Brownies are filling boxes for the homeless in Hertfordshire.



At the Gift Service on the 9th December they chose the Homeless Action in Barnet as the charity to receive the gifts.

£150 was donated and this will go to the HAB.

Many thanks for all those who gave so generously.

1st Barnet Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association.

At the Parade Service on the 10th June 2018 three members of the Girls' Association were recognised for gaining their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - Bronze.

Ruby Riley

Ella Rowland

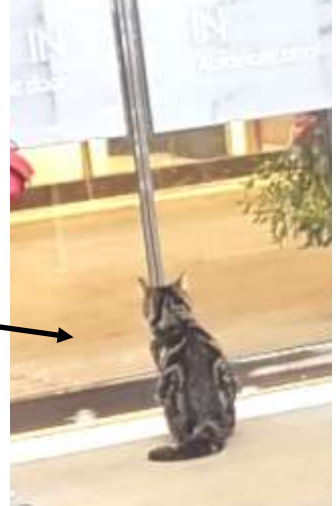
Georgie McKenzie

Eva Culverwell (left) and Isobel Harris (right) (Alan King Captain of the 1st Barnet Company) were presented with their Jack Award Certificate.

The award was given for their support of the Company in various way. They also received £250 each to be spent on resources for the company.



While walking through the Spires the other Sunday morning, I passed those waiting for Waitrose to open. And look who is at the front of the queue....



Millie

"Hi everyone, I am the owner of Mille. I know she has recently started venturing down to the butchers and KFC! She is aged 20 and has always been out and about a great deal. She is in more, but I can't keep her in all the time! I took her to the vets recently, as she has lost weight. As I thought, she has a thyroid problem, which is common in older cats, and can be controlled by medication. This is why she has lost weight. She eats loads at home! I'm very glad to say, she is being fed less from outside Waitrose, as this was causing her tummy problems! I thank everyone for their concern, and I'm really pleased that Millie brings a lot of happiness and amusement to many people in and around the Spires shopping centre.



I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas"

Church Contacts

Wood Street

Church Secretary
Vic Russell
07853 621 001

Sunday Club

Alison Atkinson
020 8441 1196

Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association

Alan King
07747 633 084

Brownies

Lisa Lang
07808 553 135

10 O'Clock Club

Stacey Cronin
07528 448 275

Chesterfield Road

Church Secretary
Bernie Cleal
020 8449 1868

Articles for the next edition should be with
the editor by

Sunday, 10th March 2019

focus@urc-barnet.org

Magazine of the
United Reformed Churches in Barnet
worshipping at Wood Street and
Chesterfield Road.



January

6th Tree
13th Sue Russell
20th Sue Russell
27th Alison Atkinson

February

3rd Jill Adams
10th Jenny de Naeyer
17th Christine Nuckey
24th Sue Russell

March

3rd Sue Russell
10th Brownies
17th Alison Atkinson
24th Friendship Club
31st Fleur White

Any problems speak to Sue