



December 2018-
January 2019



Romans 15:13

Outlook

Beckenham United Reformed Church

www.beckenhamurc.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP -DECEMBER 2018

2nd December Ms. Rachel St. Clair - including Holy Communion
9th December Mrs. Marion Bayley - Church Parade
16th December Mrs. Marion Bayley - Lessons & Carols
23rd December Mrs. Marion Bayley - Christmas Miscellany
24th December Mrs. Marion Bayley - Communion at **11.45pm**
30th December **No service at Beckenham**, to HAYES for service.

OTHER DIARY EVENTS

1st December - CHRISTMAS FAIR
5th December 2.30pm Bible Study
11th December 7.30pm Elders
19th December **12.30pm** Luncheon Club **N.B. Change of time**

OUR VISION

Our vision is to glorify God and to serve God throughout our lives, always open to God working through us. We seek to share the good news of love, forgiveness and grace with all in our local community through our actions and our prayers.



	Donors	Arrangers
2nd Dec	Peter Bevan	Monica Duncan
9th Dec	<i>available</i>	Muriel Aldcroft
16th Dec	Christmas	Marion Bayley
23rd Dec	-----	Marion Bayley
30th Dec	<i>available</i>	Jane Ball

“Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time” - Laura Ingalls Wilder

Dear Friends,

It would appear to be my turn to give a Christmas message. King George V gave his first in 1932 and our Queen her first in 1952. Not that I am putting myself in their category, as they did set the bar quite high.

I suppose the problem is what is there to say that has not already been said before; a message of peace, of God’s love, of family, of togetherness, reconciliation, new birth? All of these things?

It is enjoyable to revisit the anticipation of Advent and the traditions of Christmas itself, but it can also be a worrying time of wondering what the year ahead holds for us, as individuals and a church.

As we have just marked the centenary of the First World War we are reminded of George VI’s famous quote in his first wartime Christmas message at the start of the second-

- *And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”
And he replied:
“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

Maybe the message isn’t the same every year, but as we move forward into our unknown we should remember this year, that God is with us all the way, through whatever life holds for us and that should give us comfort, and courage, and peace. The poem, so often quoted briefly from its start, ends thus -

The stretch of years which wind ahead, so dim to our imperfect vision, are clear to God. Our fears are premature; In Him, all time hath full provision.

Then rest: until God moves to lift the veil from our impatient eyes, when, as the sweeter features of Life’s stern face we hail, fair beyond all surmise God’s thought around His creatures, our mind shall fill.

Happy Christmas, Julien

SUNDAY WORSHIP - JANUARY 2019

6th January	Mrs. Marion Bayley including Holy Communion
13th January	Miss June Mackenzie followed by Church Meeting
20th January	Mr. Jonathan Dolling
27th January	Mr. Tony Russell followed by New Year Lunch

OTHER DIARY EVENTS

2nd January	2.30pm	Bible Study
8th January	2.30pm	Crescent Club
8th January	7.30pm	Elders
16th January	1.00pm	Luncheon Club

FLOWER ROTA	Arranger	Donor
6th January	The Duncans	Monica Duncan
13th January	<i>available</i>	Marion Bayley
20th January	<i>available</i>	Jane Ball
27th January	Muriel Aldcroft	Muriel Aldcroft

FROM THE SECRETARY

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of another year!

How quickly 2018 has gone!

We at Beckenham are still in vacancy, but hopefully we have been encouraged by some of our preachers who over the months have given us some excellent sermons. Though the congregation might be slightly fewer in number, we have some very faithful members who come most Sundays whatever the weather! I am indebted as usual to the Elders (and their long-suffering other halves!) for all the hard work they put in behind the scenes. Each of them plays a very important part in the running of the Church (as do other members) and without them the Church would not exist! My thanks go to you all for keeping everything going so smoothly. I also would like to thank Hilary (our Interim Moderator) whose input at Elders' Meetings is invaluable. One of the advantages of being a small congregation is that we are one big family who look after each other!

We are now busy preparing for the Church Fair and look forward to seeing everyone there. It is always a happy occasion.

May I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year?
God bless you all, Gill Ross

Lectionary

2nd Dec Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13;
Luke 21:25-36

9th Dec Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-1;
Luke 3:1-6

16th Dec Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7;
Luke 3:7-18

23rd Dec Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

CHRISTMAS Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14,
(15-20) Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) John
1:1-14

30th Dec 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17;
Luke 2:41-52

2019

6th Jan Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

13th Jan Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

20th Jan Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-1;
John 2:1-11

27th Jan Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

*Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace
and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of
Christmas. - Calvin Coolidge*

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

ADVENT PRAISE

Shout for joy the whole earth and everything within rejoice
for Light is coming into the world!
The mountains sing, the seas resound
to the praise of your name, O God
for Salvation once promised is at hand.
The angels' song rings in the air
For a child will be born.
Hallelujah! The Saviour of the world comes near!

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION

O God, you search us out and know us
and all that we are is open to you.
We confess that we have sinned.
In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.
When we make no room for Christ Jesus
and fail to welcome him into our lives -
when we follow shooting stars
and squander our gifts in the modern courts of King Herod
in your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.
When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us –
when we sanitise your birth place
and erase from memory the poor and displaced
in your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.
When we sing sweet sentiments over the birth of Christ Jesus
and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence
in your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.
We turn to you, Christ Jesus
perfect union of Spirit and flesh.
Forgive us as we renounce evil.
Fill us with your love
for we choose to be made whole.

EPIPHANY INTERCESSION

Most Holy God,
We long for and pray for your light in Christ Jesus
to drive back the darkness of human error, misery and evil.
Where people are lost and jaded in contemporary consumerism,
where addiction to alcohol, other drugs and gambling is causing ruin
we pray for the hope of Epiphany.
Where dictators rule without mercy or wisdom,
where democracies are manipulated by the rich and powerful
we pray for the justice of Epiphany.
Where youth sees no prospect in the future and contemplates suicide,
where the long-term unemployed exist without hope
we pray for the light of Epiphany.
Where the church dodges its evangelical mission,
where the church evades its social and political responsibility,
we pray for the truth of Epiphany
Where the terminally ill face death fearfully,
where people without purpose face life despairingly
we pray for the love of Epiphany.
Help us to use our journeys, our gifts and our time
for your work among those in need in our world today.

NEW YEAR PETITION

God of the journey, your invitation is to all
to walk with you without fear of stumbling.
Your arm is enough to steady the feeblest soul,
your grace enough to rescue us should we fall.
Grant us faith enough to take you at your word,
to know that when our hearts are heavy
and the destination seems so distant
that you are with us along the road.
Forgive us when we doubt you or feel we are alone.
Draw us ever closer into your family
that we may know your presence and sing your praises
in this New Year and all the days of our lives. AMEN



COFFEE money for December goes to -

Crisis
at Christmas

Give someone who's homeless all this for £28.18 -

A warm welcome and good company, three nutritious hot meals daily, including a delicious Christmas dinner, a bed for the night, if needed, a chance to shower, freshen up and get clean clothes, a health check and treatment from a doctor, optician and dentist, expert help with mental health and addiction problems, advice on housing, employment and benefits, a way out of homelessness for good through Crisis' year-round training, education and support.



COFFEE money for **January** goes to –



lepra
Fighting disease,
poverty and prejudice

LEPRA has over 90 years of experience helping people affected by diseases and their social and economic impact.

LIVING WELL BROMLEY – FOOD BANK

We need donations of tinned goods and other foods such as:

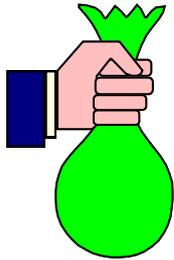
- Tinned meat
- Baked beans
- Soup
- Tinned vegetables (Carrots, sweet corn, mixed veg)
- Tinned fruit
- UHT milk
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Rice/packets of microwaveable rice

We need toilet rolls & toiletries - men's shower gel & deodorants, shaving foam etc. We **do not** require these - Teabags, Pasta, Pulses, tinned fish,

soap or Toothpaste. Open on Tuesdays (3pm - 4pm), Fridays (1pm - 3pm) and Saturdays (11am - 12noon) when donations can be dropped off.

OFFERINGS

The offerings during October were as follows:-



October 7	£106.00
October 14	£109.00
October 21	£111.00
October 28	£125.00

The after service coffee collections during the month were in aid of St. Christopher's and totalled £51.15.

Anthony Bayley



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 1st December is the date of this year's Christmas Fair as you all well know. It opens at 10.30 and runs until around 12.30. There will be the usual mix of stalls, competitions and raffles and an opportunity to relax over a hot drink with friends old and new. Please make sure you come along and bring your friends and neighbours. There is an advert on the back of this edition providing a little more information.

Anthony Bayley

CRESCENT CLUB

Our November meeting was well attended, probably because the theme was Desert Island Discs. I knew it would be popular as it's everybody's favourite. Muriel began with a prayer and she then thanked Marion for such a moving service on Remembrance Sunday, which indeed it was. Mary read a poem called Hula-hoop, very amusing, and one Mary herself composed. We only had one Birthday but what a Birthday. Our dear Hilda was 104 this week and we wished her well. Roland was our Disc Jockey and started the programme with piano playing by our dear, sadly missed, friend Dave Bracey, who was well known to us at the club. Monica chose

George Shearing playing some Shakespeare's sonnets. Marion's disc was Hooked on Classics with Monica naming most of the tunes. Well done to her. Mary chose Gershwin's "Crazy for You" a lovely dance melody. My disc was an inspirational hymn by Daniel O'Donnell. Gill's favourite musical was "Les Miserables" so a song from that by Alfie Boe was her choice. Jo had "Over the Rainbow" by Judy Garland, a haunting air to end our meeting. Then it was tea, chat and cakes. Thank you again Muriel for holding the meeting at your home, a venue we all love. The next meeting on 19th December is the Christmas Lunch, a not to be missed occasion!

Patricia Power

CRISIS

Once again this year our Christmas Charity will be Crisis. I came across the following and thought it would be helpful to have this information in the back of our minds as we approach the Christmas season:

New figures collected by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism have revealed 449 people died homeless in the U.K. last year.

Responding, **Crisis Chief Executive Jon Sparkes said:**

"We are deeply saddened and shocked beyond belief to hear of the deaths of all these individuals. To think of just one person dying due to the consequences of poverty and homelessness is appalling, but to learn of the sheer scale of those who've lost their lives in the past year is nothing short of horrifying. This is a wake-up call to see homelessness as a national emergency.

"Behind these statistics are 449 unique human beings, ranging from teenagers to people in their 90s – a gardener, an astrophysicist, musicians, fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers. Not only will 449 families or significant others have to cope with their loss, they will have to face the injustice that their loved one was forced to live the last days of their life without the dignity of a decent roof over their head, and a basic safety net that might have prevented their death. No-one deserves this.

"We know that sleeping rough is dangerous, but this investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism reminds us it's deadly. Those sleeping on our streets are exposed to everything from sub-zero temperatures, to violence and abuse, and fatal illnesses. They are 17 times more likely to be a victim of violence, twice as likely to die from infections, and nine times

more likely to commit suicide. What's worse, these figures might even be an underestimate.

A.M.B.

CHRISTMAS POST BOX 2018

The Christmas Post Box will be at the back of the Church on the 2nd and 16th December. The cards will be distributed on Sunday 17th December. Please post cards ONLY for people who attend church regularly. There will be a plate in lieu of postage for CRISIS. Thank you.

Gill



A (Modern) Passage to India

With some slight hesitation on my part, (but none at all on Monica's), we recently went out to southern India to visit our youngest son Alex and his family, who are resident out there. Alex is a Doctor who is helping to run a course on Community Medicine, in conjunction with Interserve, Edinburgh University and the Christian Medical College at Vellore. To use Alex's own words, by way of explanation, "our passion is community health for the poor and equipping community health workers and local doctors to serve their communities effectively".

The family have three girls, (Anna, Ruth and Libby) at Hebron, a boarding school for families of missionaries at Ootacamund, (Ooty) in Kerala, and the timing of our visit was largely dictated by the School half term, and the immediately preceding Drama Week at the school, in which two of the three granddaughters were involved. It seemed a long way to go to see a school play, but such is the dedication expected of modern grandparents! We also took the opportunity of visiting other parts of Kerala, seeing how this area of southern India compared with the Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra triangle in the north, which we visited some 35 years ago.

In our twelve days in the South we tried out almost every form of transport; modern jet aircraft, taxis, tok-toks, buses, out-of-date trains, a boat on the back waters, and Shanks' pony, and survived, despite the appalling traffic and lack of road discipline. We also found that in the hills

(Ooty is at 7,000ft), it is cold at night. The hotel there boasted “Bed and Breakfast and Fireplace”. Our overnight accommodation varied from a charming old fashioned hotel in Cochin and very comfortable Colonial style hotel in the hills, to luxury but not expensive, overnight stays in high class modern hotels for one night stays en route from Cochin to Ooty and then back from Calicut to Cochin.

Having visited the school and dutifully attended the school plays, and applauded our granddaughters’ performance in one production, and overall direction of another, both of which were of course very good to our eyes, we were whisked off for three nights in an intriguing modern hotel in the middle of a coffee plantation, again in the hills, north west of Ooty, but at a rather lower elevation. (The plantation is owned by the grandfather of Libby’s best friend at school). So we had passed from a predominately tea growing area into the coffee belt and then we came down again through elephant country (none seen), to more mundane bananas and other exotic fruits. The overall impression was one of a land of great beauty (spoilt by lack of planning control), vast advertising hoardings in the countryside and indiscriminate building everywhere, but with a vibrant population going places at all times, day or night. The joy was to find that the family are so well settled into the Indian way of life that they seem to want to stay at least until the youngest of the girls finishes her education at Hebron School, some five years away, and they like Indian food (which is not my choice!).

Who knows, if they are successful in prolonging the project and/or getting visas to stay out there that long, we may be persuaded to visit again, provided they can improve or change the food!!

Alan Duncan

Beckenham United Reformed seeks to ensure that all content and information published in the magazine is current and accurate. The information included does not in any way constitute legal or professional advice and the church cannot be held liable for actions arising from its use.

Copy for the February Outlook

by 20th January

Just before Christmas, there was an honest politician, a kind lawyer and Santa Claus travelling in a lift of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a £5 note lying on the floor. Which one picked it up??

Santa of course, the other two don't exist!

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?

- because he had a low 'elf' esteem!

-

1/ What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?

2/ One fairly modern Christmas ritual is the British monarch's broadcast to the people on Christmas day. The first was given by George V in 1932. Who wrote the king's speech?

a) The King himself – b) Enid Blyton – c) Rudyard Kipling –
d) Winston Churchill?

What happened when the snowgirl fell out with the snowboy?
She gave him the cold shoulder!

What do snowmen wear on their heads? Ice caps!

What do snowmen eat for lunch? Icebergers!

Where do snowmen go to dance? Snow balls!

What sort of ball doesn't bounce? A snowball!

How do you know when there is a snowman in your bed?
You wake up wet!

What do you get if cross a snowman and a shark?
Frost bite!

Answers

1/ the letter D

2/ C

BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Oakhill Road (off Crescent Road)

Interim Moderator	Mrs Hilary Miles	
Secretary	Mrs G Ross	020 8650 2959
Treasurer	Mr. A. Bayley	07983 334946
Outlook Editor	Mr J Ball	020 8659 5337
Asst. Editor	Mr A Bayley	07983 334946

Church organisations

Crescent Club	Mrs. M Aldcroft	020 8650 9518
Luncheon Club	Mrs M Duncan	020 8658 3309
Brownies	Miss L Minett	3rdbeckbrownies@gmail.com
Rainbows	Mrs M Sloper	martine.sloper@btinternet.com
Guides	Mrs L Tullis	secondbeckenham@hotmail.com

Pilates	Monday	19.30 – 20.45
	Tuesday	09.30 – 12.00
	Thursday	09.30 – 12.00
	Monday	14.00 – 16.00
U3A Arts Class	Monday	14.00 – 16.00
	Monday	15.15 – 21.00
	Tuesday	16.00 – 21.00
	Thursday	16.00 – 17.45
Janie Harris Ballet School	Friday	16.45 – 19.15
	Saturday	08.00 – 16.15
	Monday - Fri	08.30 – 12.30
	Tuesday	20.00 – 22.00
Montessori	Saturday	14.30 – 16.30
	Saturday	14.30 – 16.30
Spanish Dancing	Wednesday	14.00 – 16.30
	Wednesday	18.30 – 20.00
U3A Guitars(2 nd & 4 th)	Wednesday	17.00 – 18.00
Brownies	Wednesday	19.00 – 20.30
Rainbows	Wednesday	
Guides	Wednesday	

For lettings apply to Mr. Anthony Bayley 07983 334946

This church is a member of CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BECKENHAM
in partnership with 14 other churches in the area

CHRISTMAS FAIR

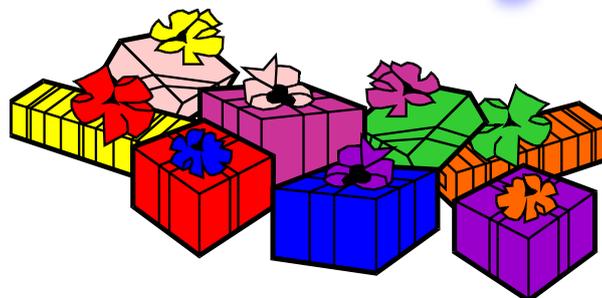


SATURDAY 1st DECEMBER

10.30 to 12.30

Free Entry

GIFTS



CAKES

CRAFTS

RAFFLES

WOODTURNING

BOOKS

**Merry
Christmas**

All profits are shared between Crisis and the Church