



February 2019



Outlook

Beckenham United Reformed Church

www.beckenhamurc.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP - FEBRUARY 2019

3rd Feb Rev.d Fiona Thomas – includes Communion
10th Feb Rev.d Nadene Snyman (Our Interim Minister)
17th Feb Mr. Alan Kienlan
24th Feb Ms. Rachel St. Clair

OTHER DIARY EVENTS

6th February 2.30pm Bible Study
12th February 2.30pm Crescent Club
12th February 7.30pm Elders
20th February 1.00pm Luncheon Club

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

3rd Feb	<i>available</i>	Monica Duncan
10th Feb	Jeane Lane	Marion Bayley
17th Feb	<i>available</i>	Jane Ball
24th Feb	<i>available</i>	Muriel Aldcroft

As you can see above we have no donors for flowers for three of this month's four services. If you have an occasion you would like to celebrate or remember by making a donation, then please contact Monica Duncan.
JCB

"Love planted a rose, and the world turned sweet." – Katharine Lee Bates, Songwriter

Dear Friends,

As no doubt you will see elsewhere in this month's magazine, this has indeed been the Season of Goodwill and in our case, of good news, or rather very good news. **WE HAVE A NEW MINISTER!!** It may be only 20% of a minister, her other responsibility being with Petts Wood U.R.C., but we are very much looking forward to the arrival of the Rev. Nadene Snyman, following her Induction on the 2nd February.

This is also the time of the year when we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and we have been encouraged by the extent of the programme of ecumenical services which, by the time you read this article, will have taken place, organised by Churches Together in Beckenham. They are going from strength to strength, and in the immediate future this will culminate in the Lent Courses, followed by the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Last year, despite the weather and the road works in the High Street, which necessitated some route changes, the participation was impressive, and it is hoped that with the original route now being restored, the numbers on the Walk this year will be even higher.

It is wise not to touch on matters political at this delicate time in the nation's tortuous negotiations on European affairs, but it is right to draw attention to the continuing need to support the local Food Banks, which still seem to serve an essential need amongst the less well off in our community. As a Church we try to maintain a modest supply of tinned goods and other items to the 'Living Well in Bromley' Food Bank at Holy Trinity Church, Lennard Road, and they are grateful for that continuing support. I had the good fortune to go to the penultimate performance of Dickens' Christmas Carol at the Old Vic, only last week, and it was moving to find how much a predominately young audience reacted to his tale of the continuing need for goodwill and the support of the poor. At the end of a marvellous performance "Scrooge" made a moving appeal for such a present day Charity and we were all asked to contribute to collection buckets as we departed. I have no idea how much was donated, but over the whole of the run of this production it must have been considerable. Long may such philanthropy continue.

A happy and healthy New Year to you all,
Alan

FROM THE SECRETARY

What a lot has happened in the past two months! We now have a Minister! Petts Wood called a Minister early in November. They had been scoped at 80% with the remaining 20% being Synod directed. A suggestion was made by the Pastoral Committee that with this 20% their Minister would become Interim Minister to Beckenham for an appointment of 2 years.

Her name is Rev. Nadene Snyman. We had a tea party just before Christmas to welcome her which we all very much enjoyed. She moves into the Manse in Petts Wood this week and her Induction takes place on Saturday 2nd February at 3p.m. at Petts Wood Church to whom all are very welcome. So we very much look forward to having Nadene guiding and leading us over the next few months.

Our Christmas services went well, though sadly there were not many Rainbows or Brownies at our Nativity Service. The Church as usual looked very festive thanks to Monica. Marion as usual led the services over this period, and thanks are given to her for all the work she put in preparing these services.

Some of us have a few health problems, but let's hope that we all improve over the coming weeks!

Lastly on a bright note, Mary celebrates her 90th birthday this coming Sunday 27th January. Fortuitously we have our New Year lunch on that day, so we certainly will be able to help her celebrate it in style! Many happy returns Mary!

Gill Ross

Lectionary

3 rd Feb	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
	Luke 4:21-30		
10 th Feb	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
	Luke 5:1-11		
17 th Feb	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20
	Luke 6:17-26		
24 th Feb	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40	1
	Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50		Luke 6:27-38

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Almighty and most gracious God,
We praise and thank you for the lives you have given to us to lead
here in your wonderful world.
We are grateful for home and family, for work and play with friends.
We are glad to be able to witness to you in word and in deed,
here and now.
Yet our hope is not for this life only,
for you resurrected your Son as the first-fruits of all who die.
Therefore, we praise you for the hope we have in the hereafter,
that we shall be raised to be with you and with one another evermore.

Lord God, we confess that we, like so many, have doubts.
The world around us is so solid, so real,
that we doubt the possibility of the miraculous.
Forgive our lack of faith.
We find it difficult to believe in the resurrection of Jesus,
let alone ourselves. Our hope is mainly for this life.
Teach us to trust in you Lord, so that, as Jesus passed through death,
we may do so too.

Lord God, we pray for all who are going through difficulties
making faith hard:
for those who are suffering physical or mental illness,
that they may feel the comfort of your healing touch;
for the bereaved, that they may know your presence,
as they walk through the valley of the shadow;
for those who have been hurt, abused or betrayed
by people they loved and trusted, that they may know the love of Jesus
Lord God, ease open all hurting eyes and hearts.
Push aside all barriers to faith.
Shine your light into our darkness
so that faith may flourish even in the midst of sorrow.

We have received the Good News of Jesus – let us live it now. Amen



COFFEE money for **February** goes to –

Hope Health Action.

Based in West Wickham Hope Health Action is a Christian charity passionate about facilitating sustainable, life-saving health and disability care to the world's most vulnerable, without any discrimination. It seeks to put the call of Jesus into reality, loving others, as they would wish to be loved themselves; bringing hope, health and action to the world's poorest.

They equip local health systems in the most fragile states, empowering national staff and facilities to fulfil their vision, ensuring the world's poorest receive accessible, dignified and compassionate healthcare.

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.

CRISIS

I am pleased to report that I have sent a cheque for £325.76 to Crisis, our Christmas charity once again this year. This was arrived at in the following ways. Thank you to all who helped.

After service coffee	£54.10
Gift Aid tax refund	£12.00
Christmas card postage	£34.00
Christmas Fair	£225.66
TOTAL	£325.76

Anthony Bayley

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2019

Please join with other churches in Beckenham at the World Day of Prayer 2019 - PRAYING FOR SLOVENIA. It will take place on Fri 1st March at St James' Church, St. James' Ave @ 10.30AM -A service for everyone

Theme: 'Come - Everything Is Ready!'

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone who is able, to join this Day of Prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this years' service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist social republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

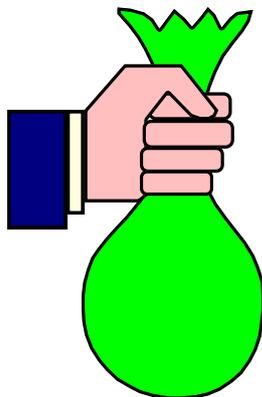
Join with us on 1st March and over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

Come and be part of this great wave of prayer.

Gill Ross

OFFERINGS

The offerings during November and December were as follows:-



November 4	£134.00
November 11	£191.00
November 18	£120.00
November 25	£150.10
December 2	£127.50
December 9	£146.06
December 16	£140.00
December 23	£165.00

The after service coffee collections during this period were as follows:-

Royal British Legion	£61.90
Crisis	£54.10

Anthony Bayley



CHRISTMAS FAIR

The morning of Saturday December 1st was when we held our Annual Christmas Fair but it was also a very wet morning and this had a significant effect on the numbers attending. Nevertheless, all who came, either as visitors or stall holders, seemed to enjoy the morning which was the main thing! May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped in whatever way to make the morning such a success. We raised £451.31 which is shared equally between Crisis and church funds. A breakdown by stall follows -

Cakes	£109.50
Raffle	£74.43
Gifts	£109.80
Books	£28.40
Coffee	£26.25
Brownies	£37.15
Competitions	£28.00
Guides	£37.50
Guests	£48.00
Total	£499.03
Less advertising	£47.72
NET PROFIT	£451.31

Anthony Bayley

CRESCENT CLUB

Welcome to the New Year! Let's hope we will all have good health, peace and contentment throughout this year. We had a really good meeting on January 8th. Muriel read the notices and said a prayer. Mary read a poem called "Gifts of Laughter" and another one about re-cycling which was really funny. This month we have just the one birthday, a rather special one for Mary!! We wish her a blessed year. Her Majesty has been warned to count down to the extra special one!! After that it was time for a beetle drive. Everyone but Gill and I got started. We waited quite a while to get the number on the dice to begin. Of course, no way could we catch up with the other players. It was all good fun & Mary won the game. Tea and cakes followed and a nice chit chat to end the meeting. Our next meeting is on February 12th, a not to be missed afternoon called "Songs and more at 54"

Patricia Power

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

At the end of 2018 I was able to send a total of £738.56 to Commitment for Life which we had raised during the year. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Christian Aid partner PARC is working with farmers in Gaza whose livelihoods were destroyed during the 2014 military offensive.

Said and his family's home and farm were badly damaged. There was shelling all around them and they were forced to flee, meaning their animals died as they were left behind. PARC supported Said to rebuild his farm which included fitting netting and a roof over his chick enclosure and installing a rainwater harvesting unit.

In the summer, the rainwater harvesting unit works like a cooling system for the enclosure and keeps the chicks healthier. After cooling, the water returns to the water tank. In the winter, water is channelled into a useable system instead of disappearing after it falls across the farm. Thanks to the system, the number of chicks Said is now able to rear has increased from 1,000 to over 1,500, improving his family's income.

A.M.B.

WATER AID

The following is the text of a letter received from the WaterAid Community Team following receipt of our cheque for our fund raising for 2018:-

I'd like to thank you and the congregation of Beckenham URC so much for joining together to support WaterAid. Your congregation's donation of £790.36 means that together we can reach even more communities around the world with clean water. When clean water arrives it brings a ripple of incredible changes. Families have enough water to drink, enough water to grow food and enough water to look after their animals.

For people like Moustapha, access to clean water has transformed his life. He says "Our food is in the hands of water. Water is life, it's water that makes crops grow and provide us with food. It's also water that gives us health. We use it to do everything. Without water we can do nothing".

Your congregation's support will ensure even more families like Moustapha's are able to drink clean water, grow food and enjoy healthier lives. Thank you once again for your generosity.

A.M.B.

BOTTLE TOPS

For the last few years we have been collecting plastic milk bottle tops and equivalents which were not acceptable for Council collection and passing them on in bulk at least initially for charity. It now appears that Bromley, at least, will now accept them so we are no longer going to collect them. Thank you to everyone who has participated over the years.

Anthony Bayley

FREE WILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

Some of you will have noticed that this year's envelopes are not up to standard and very easily burst open at the top and bottom. I have complained to the manufacturer and they have apologised and will be providing us with a complete new set of envelopes. These will be distributed to you within the next couple of weeks. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Hayes Free Church Quiz Night

Hayes are holding a quiz night on Saturday 23rd February in aid of the Bertha James Day Centre. The event starts at 7pm and takes place at the church on Pickhurst Lane.

Tables of eighth at £2 per head, and please bring your own refreshments. Please book by 21st by calling Christine on 07989 192928

“A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.” – Mignon McLaughlin, Journalist

“Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.” – Franklin P. Jones, Engineer

**Copy for the March Outlook
by 17th February please**

BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Oakhill Road (off Crescent Road)

Interim Minister	Mrs Nadene Snyman	
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	15.15 – 21.00
	Tuesday	16.00 – 21.00
	Thursday	16.00 – 17.45
	Friday	16.45 – 19.15
	Saturday	08.00 – 16.15
Montessori	Mon - Fri	08.30 – 12.30
	Tuesday	20.00 – 22.00
	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