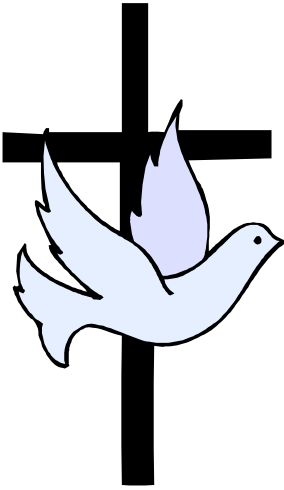


**MAY 2016**



# Outlook

**Beckenham United Reformed Church**

[www.beckenhamurc.com](http://www.beckenhamurc.com)

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP – MAY 2016**

1st	May	Mr. J Ball & Mrs. G Ross - Holy Communion
8th	May	Mrs. Marion Bayley - Church Parade
15th	May	Major Cliff Kent
22nd	May	Mrs. June Mackenzie after, Church meeting
29th	May	Mrs. Hilary Miles

## **OTHER DIARY EVENTS**

Tuesday	3rd May	2.30pm	Crescent Club
Tuesday	3rd May	7pm	Joint Elders at Hayes
Wednesday	4th May	2.30pm	Bible Study
Wednesday	4th May	7pm	Vacancy meeting with Hayes
Wednesday	18th May	12.30pm	Luncheon Club & Songs of Praise

15th May - Christian Aid Lunch

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## **NOTES ON VISITING PREACHERS IN MAY**

Mr. Julien Ball & Mrs. Gill Ross - no introduction needed!

Mrs. Marion Bayley - likewise!

Major Cliff Kent - A Major of the Salvation Army who has preached many times before.

Mrs. June Mackenzie - A lay reader from St. Georges.

Mrs. Hilary Miles - A lay preacher and an active member of Synod.

## **ELDERS LETTER**

Dear friends,

As you can see from the cover, this month includes Christian Aid Week. The charity began after the Second World War to help European refugees who had lost everything; at that time it was called Christian Reconstruction in Europe.

Their purpose was not to evangelise, but to alleviate suffering for ordinary people, no matter what their faith. Over time their remit widened, they started an annual door to door collection in 1957 and by 1964 changed their name to Christian Aid.

Of course, Christian Aid follows the teaching of Jesus Christ, who commanded his followers to love their neighbour and work for a better world. Jesus identified with the poor, excluded, weak, sick and oppressed; and so should we.

In fact I think, given the size of our church, we punch above our weight, and we should be very proud of what we do for charity, not only through Christian Aid week, but throughout the year. This doesn't mean we should be complacent. We should live the Vision we have set out for ourselves below. God always has work for us to do, to help those who can't help themselves or have less than we do. Through making life better for others we are fulfilling his will, through making life better for others we become ever closer to Him.

'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in.' Matthew 25:35

Julien Ball

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### **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.

## FROM THE SECRETARY

I have just come back from a week's holiday in Norfolk. It was so nice to see the signs of spring with daffodils and primroses on the sides of the road. Whilst there I took the opportunity to see Dorothy Nutley who has just gone into a wonderful Residential Home. She looks very well and sends her love to those who remember her.

We had a very successful Housekeeping Day at the beginning of the month. I would like to thank everyone (especially the men!) who turned up and helped clear the small room by the Hall. It now looks clean and tidy!! Also thanks to David & Tish for the curtain and banner hanging – don't they look wonderful?

Alan Duncan had a cataract operation last month and I am pleased to say he has fully recovered. Henry Tilley is at the moment in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The Vacancy Committee meets this month for the first time.

It will be a joint meeting with the Hayes Vacancy Group and our Interim Moderator. I will of course, keep you posted of any developments!

Gill Ross



Donors

Arrangers

1 <sup>st</sup>	-----	Jane Ball
8 <sup>th</sup>	The Bayleys	Marion Bayley
15 <sup>th</sup>	The Duncans	Monica Duncan
22 <sup>nd</sup>	-----	Monica Duncan
29 <sup>th</sup>	Muriel Aldcroft	Muriel Aldcroft

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# **PRAYER FELLOWSHIP**

## **PENTECOST**

With awe and wonder, we remember today the events of that day of Pentecost long ago which so transformed the lives of the Apostles  
We remember how, in the space of a few moments their experience was revolutionised -

Their expectations turned upside down; their attitudes changed forever;

one moment consumed by fear; the next radiating confidence;  
one moment uncertain of the future; the next sure of their calling;  
one moment wrestling with doubt; the next full of faith;  
one moment hiding behind locked doors;  
the next preaching boldly to the crowds.

Mighty God,

You came through your Spirit and life was never the same again.

Come to us, breathing new fire into our hearts,  
new energy into our lives, new life into our souls

Transform our fear, anxiety and doubt,  
filling us with confidence and faith.

Open our minds to new horizons, new experiences  
and a new way of looking at life  
and so may we live by the Holy Spirit,  
bearing rich fruit to your glory.

Move in us, we pray, through your Holy Spirit. Amen

## **TRINITY**

God beyond us, God with us, God inside us, we worship you.

God outside us, God among us, God within us, we praise you.

God above, God beside, God below, we thank you.

God of past, God of present, God of future, we bless you.

God of here, God of there, God of everywhere, we salute you.

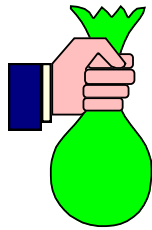
God of majesty, God of love, God of power, we honour you.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, we glorify you.

Amen

## OFFERINGS

The offerings during March were as follows:-



March 6	£148.50
March 13	£154.50
March 20	£206.34
March 27	£144.41

The after service coffee collections during the month were in aid of Lepra and totalled £56.25.

Anthony Bayley

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## DEMELZA HOSPICE CARE

The following is an extract from a letter received from Nicola Irvine, Senior Engagement Manager at Demelza.

“We’re so grateful to you for continuing to support Demelza Hospice Care for Children and what an amazing amount you’ve raised. Your kind donation of £90.30 is really appreciated. Thank you!

You’re part of the amazing team who ensure seriously ill babies, children and young people, and their families, continue to receive the care that they need when they need it most. Without our dedicated team of staff, volunteers and supporters, we simply couldn’t continue to provide the vital care that we do. Thank you!

Because you have supported Demelza in the past, you will already know about the incredible work we do. However I’d like to take the chance to tell you a little more about the big impact we’re making in your local community.

At our hospice in Eltham, we are able to provide tailored, expert care which is very personal and individual to each family, helping them to enjoy special moments together and create treasured memories.

Time together as a family is something so special, and for most families, so simple. But for some families, even going on a trip to play in the park, shopping for new toys and books, or parents going out for a romantic meal so they can reconnect, isn’t so easy. Our specialist nurses provide care and support in our purpose built hospice, giving families the time and support to be together; our

specially designed play area allows families to have fun and play together, in the knowledge that their child is safe.

It's about life here at Demelza; we enable those who may not live a long life to live a full life. This support can make all the difference to families, enabling them to enjoy happy times together, making memories and spending precious time with each other.

On behalf of all the babies, children, young people and families who we care for, and staff and volunteers, thank you."

A.M.B.

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## **PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS**

As many of you will know, we recently started collecting the above for recycling for charity. Unfortunately our outlet has now ceased. We have, however, found that Lush in the Glades Bromley Shopping Centre still collect them for recycling and we have already delivered a large number to them. Please therefore continue to collect them and add them to the box at the back of the church.

A.M.B.

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## **DIRECTORY**

The 2016 issue of the Church Directory has recently been distributed. If anyone would like to have a large print copy, please let me know.

Anthony Bayley

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## **TAKE CARE**

It has recently come to our attention that there has been another courier fraud in the area.

This is the type of crime where you receive a call from someone claiming to be from your bank. They may claim to have spotted an unusual transaction on your account or a fraudulent payment and ask you for your pin numbers, even asking you to input your pin number onto your 'phone key pad.

### **NEVER GIVE YOUR PIN TO ANYONE IN ANY WAY**

You may also be asked to call the bank number on the back of your card to prove that the call is genuine. However, the scammer will keep the line open at their end so your "call" goes nowhere and you just return to the original caller. The scammer then sends a courier or

taxi to pick up your card from your home. Once they have your card and pin they can then spend your money.

There are different variations on this scam now operating all over the country, both on the 'phone and in person with people posing as bank workers, post office workers and even police. Please remember the following:

Your bank or the police will NEVER ask for your pin, your bank card or to withdraw money.

NEVER share your pin with anyone - the only times you should use your pin is at a cash machine or when you use a shop's chip and pin machine.

NEVER hand over your bank card or any goods you have purchased as a result of a 'phone call to anyone who comes to your front door.

If you think that you have been a victim of this scam or something similar, please call the police on 101.

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## **CUMBRIA FLOOD RELIEF**

Many thanks for your donation to the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund Appeal. We greatly appreciate your support for the work which the Foundation is undertaking towards alleviating hardship caused by the flooding. The response from donors has been tremendous. We know that the 2015 floods have impacted more severely than 2009, with three times more households flooded than there were in 2005 and 2009 together. It is clear that the impact on a large number of people's lives has been overwhelming. I am pleased to say that we have already given out more than £3.4 million in grants to 2,300 households, which represents 36% of flooded households, as well as supporting community organisations. We continue to receive an average of 35 applications for grants per day.

On behalf of the trustees and all who will benefit from your generosity, I send you renewed thanks and all.

Andrew Beeforth, Chief Executive

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# CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

I am sure you do not need reminding that this year the week runs from Sunday 15 May to Saturday 21 May. I will be contacting our regular band of heroic collectors shortly, if I have not already done so, and hope that you will be able to assist again this year. I know it's not always terrific fun but it really is so worthwhile. I'm also on the lookout for additional collectors – you could volunteer!

We start the week with a Christian Aid lunch on May 15 after the service and I hope many of you will feel able to join us and be as generous as in previous years.

Thank you to everyone who helps during Christian Aid Week in whatever way. It is much appreciated.

Please read the separate article headed Christian Aid which provides information as to what Christian Aid Week is all about and why we make the effort.

Anthony Bayley

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## CHRISTIAN AID

Morsheda is a young mother of four living in Bangladesh. She has no land, few assets and no savings. For Morsheda's family living on low-lying islands in the Brahmaputra River, floods are a terrifying part of



everyday life. Morsheda can't even count on having a safe place to call home: the single-room, corrugated-iron house she shares with her children has been flooded four times. 'I feel very scared of the river. When I look at it I keep thinking "it is coming".' One year, her humble house filled up to her knees with floodwater. To stay dry, and keep away from the dangerous snakes that now swam through her home she raised her bed up on bricks. But during the night she was woken by a loud splash. In the pitch black, her baby son had fallen into the inky water. He could have drowned in moments.

In a bad year, huge waves crashed against her house, giving her less than an hour to uproot her home and scramble to safety. Racing against time, she gathered her terrified children together and hastily made a raft from a banana tree. At any moment, it could have tipped and plunged them into the swirling waters, but it was their only hope. She put her youngest daughter in a cooking pot and clung to it as it floated in the current. ‘My children were so scared. My sister was holding them very tightly and we were panicking because my neighbour’s child was washed away.’

Morsheda and her children live a precarious life. They know that the floods will come again, and soon. But we can lift our neighbours like Morsheda to safety. Just £250 is enough for a Christian Aid Home Safety Package. It could flood-proof Morsheda’s home, raising it eight foot on an earth plinth, so that she has a safe place to rebuild, keep livestock and grow crops. It could also buy a goat, seeds and a wormery to help produce compost – all of which will give her a long-term income and a solid foundation for a new life.

‘If I could raise my house then I would feel much safer living here with my children.’

A.M.B.

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O God of all, we come many times to ask your help  
and sometimes it seems that you turn away.  
Our cries are unheard. The hungry are still hungry.  
Wars still wound and destroy. People we love become ill and die.  
So we read the story of the Canaanite woman and we cheer her on.  
She shouted, and she knelt, and she argued, and her prayer was heard.  
And we will go on shouting for those who need your help;  
and we will kneel and pray with all our hearts;  
and we will argue and protest and make a fuss;  
until our cries are heard, and the hungry are fed,  
until peace comes and the sick are healed.  
Our faith too is great and our resolve, to keep on longing and praying  
and hoping for what we believe is your will for all your children.  
God, help us.

O Saviour of my life,  
Will you meet me in my death?  
O Deliverer of my hope,  
Will you free me in my peril?  
O Healer of my soul,  
Will you cure all my disease?  
When I cry, shedding tears  
Do you taste my bitterness?  
When I strive, struggling to survive

Do you stand by and offer your hand?  
When I give up, with shattered dreams  
Do you pick up all the pieces?

O Listener of all my prayers,  
In silence and thunders I wait for your answer.  
O Comforter of my broken heart,  
In lonely night I search for your solace.  
O Helper of my weakened strength,

In unbearable burden I seek your relief.  
O Maker of heavens and earth,  
May I call you my God?

Even if I never know your name,  
Even if I've done some shameful things,  
Even if I betrayed you and ran away once.  
But will you forgive me for all my wrongs?

Will you help me when I reach toward you with my tiny hands?  
Will you grant me peace even though we battled all our lives?

People say you set the rules,  
But I know you truly love.  
When others judge my covers,  
You attend my heart and mind.

When my road leads into dark storms,  
You will light up my eyesight.  
When I fall on hard ground,  
You will lift me up to rise.

When I face hardship and scorn,  
We will together share our portion.  
When I suffer in a hopeless sickbed,  
We will together battle in each breath.

When I'm lost alone and lingering,  
You will be with me, and guide me home.  
One day I'll die and depart,  
But I truly believe  
You will lift me up.

O God, our Savior, listen to our prayer.  
Fill our hunger, heal our sickness,  
Comfort our souls.  
If you wish not to answer,  
Then please wait for us,  
Because we are about to shut our eyes.

by Lajon Liu

**Note from the Author:**

This poem/prayer is for all of us who are suffering in sickness, injury, departure, loneliness, overwhelming regrets, unrecoverable embarrassment, and hopeless situations in this world.

We have some prayers that need to be answered, but we are confused by his 'silence.' Lessons in obedience and perseverance are how we try to understand God's will, but God is with us in our suffering and pain. He bears much more than we could ever know. So I call him our suffering God.

Some prayers he answers in his perfect will, which is not always what we think. But no matter what, he takes his portion in our pain, and our death, he takes away. God is present with us in life and even in our death.

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## CRESCENT CLUB

On a bright sunny afternoon the meeting, though low in membership numbers, enjoyed a great time. Muriel opened with a prayer and then Mary read a poem called "Touch a soul." After that we sang Happy Birthday to Monica; only one birthday in April.

After that it was over to "Mr Piano Man" Roland. He played many of the great songs of the 30's, 40's, 50's and even 60's. Those tunes will never fade away. I can't see people sitting in a club in 20 years singing the songs of today. Wonderful harmonies from all the ladies!

Afterwards we had tea and some of Monica's super cakes, and we sat and chatted as a group. We are but a small membership, but the fellowship between each of us is so happy and joyful. We went on our merry way with the tunes still ringing in our ears.

Our next meeting is the AGM and bring and buy stall. If you have some nice gifts for the stall please bring them. That's on 3rd May at 2.30pm  
Pat Power



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## COFFEE

The May coffee money goes to Christian Aid.

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A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

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**Copy for the June Outlook  
by 22nd May please.**

# BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Oakhill Road (off Crescent Road)

Secretary	Mrs G Ross	020 8650 2959
Treasurer	Mr. A. Bayley	020 8402 2563
Outlook Editor	Mr J Ball	020 8659 5337
Asst. Editor	Mr A Bayley	020 8402 2563

## *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	020 8658 2834
Pilates	Monday	19.30 – 20.45
	Tuesday	09.30 – 13.15
	Thursday	09.30 – 12.00
U3A Arts Class	Monday	14.00 – 16.00
Janie Harris Ballet School	Monday	14.00 – 19.30
	Tuesday	16.00 – 21.00
	Friday	16.45 – 19.15
	Saturday	08.00 – 17.00
Montessori	Mon - Fri	08.30 – 12.30
Jazz Dance	Monday	17.00 – 19.15
	Thursday	16.00 – 20.15
	Saturday	10.15 – 13.15
Tai Chi Chuan	Monday	20.00 – 22.00
Spanish Dancing	Tuesday	20.00 – 22.00
	Saturday	14.30 – 16.30
U3A Guitars(2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> )	Wednesday	14.00 – 16.30
Brownies	Wednesday	18.30 – 20.00
Rainbows	Wednesday	17.00 – 18.00

For lettings apply to Mr. Anthony Bayley 020 8402 2563

# MORSHEDA'S HOME CAN BE SAVED

round your  
neck of the  
woods



**'The house has gone under water before.  
In a few weeks it will be flooded.'**  
– Morsheda

With your local neighbours, you can raise the  
homes of our global neighbours like Morsheda.

**This is the week we love every neighbour.  
Join us. Find out more at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)**

**christian  
aid**  
week  
**15-21 MAY**

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**We believe in life before death**