



DECEMBER 2015

-

JANUARY 2016



Outlook

Beckenham United Reformed Church

www.beckenhamurc.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP - DECEMBER 2015

6th Dec Rev. Sue Powell - Holy Communion & Church Parade
13th Dec Mrs. Marion Bayley - Christmas Miscellany
20th Dec Rev. Sue Powell - Lessons & Carols
24th Dec Rev. Sue Powell - Christmas Eve - 11.45pm
25th Dec Rev. Sue Powell - Christmas Day - 9.30am
27th Dec Rev. Sue Powell - Joint Service with Hayes

OTHER DIARY EVENTS

Wed 2nd December 2.30pm Discussion Group
Tues 8th December 7.30pm Elders

Wed 16th December 12.30pm Luncheon Club &
Christmas Entertainment

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

6 th Dec	The Almonds	Monica Duncan
13 th Dec	Peter Bevan	Marion Bayley
20 th Dec		Christmas
27 th Dec		“ “

“Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it white.”

Bing Crosby

SUNDAY WORSHIP - January 2016

3rd January	Rev. Sue Powell - including Holy Communion *
10th January	Mr. John Morley
17th January	Mrs. Marion Bayley followed by Church Meeting
24th January	Mrs. Maureen Bull
31st January	Rev. Peter Clarke

* Followed by our New Year Lunch

OTHER DIARY EVENTS

Wednesday	6th Jan	2.30pm	Discussion Group
Tuesday	12th Jan	2.30pm	Crescent Club
Tuesday	12th Jan	8.00pm	Elders
Wednesday	20th Jan	12.30pm	Luncheon Club & Songs of Praise



	Donors	Arrangers
3rd January	<i>available</i>	Pat Power
10th "	Alan & Monica Duncan	Monica Duncan
17th "	<i>available</i>	Jane Ball
24th "	<i>available</i>	Marion Bayley
31st "	Muriel Aldcroft	Muriel Aldcroft

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let every new year find you a better man.”

Benjamin Franklin

“Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.”

Jonathan Edwards, Clergyman

Dear Friends,

Christmas is coming, and we are all busy preparing. Our Christmas Tree is up, schools are telling again the story of Christmas, and children eagerly await a possible visit from Father Christmas; Christmas songs are played in stores, and turkeys are on order. A time of year that is either looked forward to, or dreaded, according to who you do, or do not, get to spend time with.

For Christians, Christmas is always a celebration of the birth of the Christ Child; a time when we remember God's amazing gift, come to earth for us; when we remind ourselves again of the stories of the birth of Christ as shepherds, wise men and angels witness the amazing coming of God's own Son.

Somehow, over the years, we seem to find it more difficult to enter into the wonder of this time; to acknowledge the miracle of God on earth; to allow ourselves to be astounded by the God who loves us so much that He was willing to send His only beloved Son to tell us anew how much we are loved and how very special we are in His sight.

As I write what is my last magazine letter to you all, my prayer is that this year we will all be reminded afresh of just how wonderful and amazing our God truly is, and each know and experience the true depth of His Joy and Love in each one of us.

May we all enjoy a blessed time this Christmas.

Sue

FROM THE SECRETARY

It is hard to believe that another year has nearly gone by!

It has been quite an uneventful year for us at Beckenham, though I am sure one of the highlights for us all was when we went Ten Pin Bowling!! We certainly had fun that afternoon!

As usual we enjoyed our Church lunches, especially our Church Anniversary Lunch when we had Canon Derek Carpenter to preach.

We started our Discussion Group in March and I know those who attend enjoy the fellowship together.

Crescent Club continues to meet and the committee always find excellent speakers.

Sadly though Sue now leaves us at the beginning of January.

Her last service with us will be on 3rd January and this will be followed by a lunch so we can say farewell to her. Thank you Sue for all you have done for us over the past 9 years. Whatever the future holds, we wish you well.

We must now look forward to next year. We will be appointed an Interim Moderator (hopefully quite soon after Sue leaves), who will guide us into 2016. It will be an interesting time for us and we must all pray for guidance at this time.

My thanks go to the Elders (and their other halves) for all the support they have given me this year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Gill Ross

Lectionary

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

Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

13th Dec Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7;

Luke 3:7-18

20th 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 Eve & Day

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

27th Dec 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17;

Luke 2:41-52

3rd Jan Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12; Psalm 147:12-20 or
Wisdom Solomon 10:15-21; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18

10th Jan Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

17th Jan Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

24th Jan Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

31st Jan Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13;
Luke 4:21-30

SUE POWELL ---- A PROFILE

Always a rebellious child, Sue apparently had a reputation for going out without permission, even when very young, and has clear recollections of being brought back home on many occasions, by the local police constable, having been found wandering in Peckham Rye; and perhaps she has not lost that rebellious streak even as she has grown older!

Born in Anstey Road, Peckham, in 1953, the second of three daughters of Stanley and Mabel Conder, Sue was sandwiched between a sister who was six years older and another sister who was six years younger. Grandfather, who lived with them, was apparently somewhat eccentric, and she acknowledges this as being the reason for her always wanting to be out of the house. Thus she became streetwise at an early age, and has remained so ever since. Education at Bellenden Infant and Junior School, continued to be a trial, with a good deal of truancy, but by the time she got to Secondary School, at Friern Girls School, she became somewhat better behaved, but always felt bored and unstretched. Obviously this was a classic case of comprehensive education not bringing out the full potential of a young mind, as, having been told at the age of sixteen that she should leave and get a job, some twenty four years later she was encouraged to attend a "Return to Learning Course" at Goldsmiths College, and in one year successfully passed GCSEs in English and Maths and AS levels in English, English Literature, General Science, Design & Technology, Statistics and IT.

But to return to her earlier years, Sue was sent to Sunday Schools from the age of three and says she thinks she tried every one of the local churches before finally settling in at Hanover Chapel from the age of

thirteen. There she joined the youth club, and subsequently the Junior Section of the Boys Brigade, of which she eventually became leader; it was through this that she met her husband to be, Roy, the Captain of the Company Section of the Boys Brigade. So church became the centre of her social life.

Having been told to leave school at sixteen she found employment in a typing pool in an Insurance Company, but this only lasted a year before boredom persuaded her to train as a Cytologist at Kings College Hospital, where she worked in the laboratories for some three years. From there she changed back to office work for a couple of years and then worked for the Ministry of Defence, again as a Cytologist. (**Cytology** is the study of cells obtained from body tissues.)

Sue and Roy married in 1974, and the first of three children, Phillip born in 1976, David in 1979 and eventually Clare in 1988, all this while Sue and Roy were living in their flat in Forest Hill; as soon as motherhood permitted, Sue became an assistant in a Play Group, followed by a stint at a Primary School, firstly supervising in the playground, and eventually becoming classroom assistant, thus fulfilling her love of involvement with young children. When the two older boys were settled into Primary School, Sue reverted again to her interest in Cytology by working at Lewisham Hospital for a couple of years, but this had to come to an end when Clare came along in 1988. So it was back helping at a Play Group as soon as Clare was old enough to be able to go to one, and then on to Primary School classroom assistant again at Stillness Infants.

And thus we come to the time of the real breakthrough, when Sue was encouraged to spend a year at Goldsmiths, followed by a year at Lewisham College on an "Access Course", which she successfully completed and was accepted by Goldsmiths to train as a Science Teacher in a Junior School, but unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately for the Church, she was not able to take up this commitment, so it was back to being a teaching assistant in a "sink" Primary School in Lewisham, with serious behavioural problems. It would not surprise anybody who knows Sue, to learn that the behavioural problems were solved within about a year and the school was turned round, with Sue being very much the mentor to whom most of the staff turned for guidance.

Having proved herself in this field Sue felt she wanted to see how she might develop her other talents, in particular in church related administration. She therefore accepted the position of Administrator at Bromley Widmore Road URC, a challenging position with a Minister who had something of a reputation.

Meanwhile she had long continued her involvement with her own church, Hanover Chapel in Peckham, which was to become one of the churches which formed part of the Copleston Centre. She had been an Elder, Treasurer, Church Secretary and for some years been part of the administrative team there, she had continued her connection with running the Boys Brigade and had been elected Chairman of the Management Committee as well as being the Synod representative. It was not surprising, therefore, that the Copleston Centre eventually lured her back into being the full time Centre Director, with the charismatic Rev. Cecil Heatley in charge.

Perhaps somewhat reluctantly Sue was persuaded that she was being called to the Ministry and eventually, after a setback or two, agreed to go to be trained for the non-stipendiary ministry; non-stipendiary so that she would be able to say “No” to things and put the children first. The three year training was ecumenical, with Anglicans and Methodists as well as URC; weekly lectures, weekends away and eight day away courses each Easter at the wonderful Kings School Canterbury. Of course she came through with flying colours, and we at Beckenham, together with Hayes Free Church, had the privilege of completing her training when she joined us on placement for a year, at a church as far removed as possible from her own previous experience and, for a London suburban church, Beckenham (and Hayes) certainly are nearly as different as it is possible to be from Peckham.

Since ordination as a stipendiary Minister, Sue, having decided that she would accept full time commitment as the family were now more or less offhand, first served at Crossway Mission, Elephant & Castle, a tough place to start but very much the sort of challenge to bring out the best in her. She was much loved by the largely ethnic congregation at Crossway, and it is a cause of sorrow that the congregation there has become much reduced since she left them to become our Minister (with Hayes) for the last nine years. Their loss has been our gain and it goes without saying that our two churches have been blessed by being led by an inspiring teacher, an energetic leader and, most of all, by a faithful friend who will long be remembered for her devoted pastoral care. We will miss her, as she leaves for a fresh phase in a life well lived.

Alan Duncan

November 2015

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

ADVENT ADORATION & CONFESSION

God and Father of our coming Lord Jesus Christ,
the time of the Advent of the Christ draws near and we feel a mixture of excitement and apprehension – excitement for the hope He heralds; apprehension for the judgment He brings.
This yearly round brings pain as well as pleasure.

We are innkeepers, for our hearts are too ready to cry “no room here!” and yet we want to be the shepherds who heard the angels and gathered in wonder and in praise at the cradle.

We are Herods, fearful for our position and yet we want to be the Wise Men who bowed and gave gifts.

We ache to welcome the Christ-child and yet we agonise at the cost of commitment

Living God, fill us with wonder and keen anticipation for the glory to be revealed. Take from us unfitting fear and give us an expectation of renewal. Speak to us of your enduring nearness as we draw near to you in worship.

Loving God, we confess that we are not ready. We long to welcome once more the birth of your Son, but know our faith is less than steadfast; our love less than strong, and our commitment less than sure. Yet you love us as we are, and not only for what we might become. You call us to repentance, and promise us forgiveness and guidance on the way of life.

Lord, we confess our impatience. We want you to act now – to transform the world and solve our problems. Yet we do not use the guidance and the resources you have already provided.

The world tells us you are absent and that our faith is of no purpose – but we have done little to prove them wrong. Our jaundiced politics and prejudiced theology have prevented us from recognising the place where, and the people in whom, you are already at work.

Lord, forgive us. Teach us to be prepared and steadfast; patient and perceptive – always alert to your action and purpose through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

CHRISTMAS INTERCESSION

Loving Lord God,

We pray for all who hope for good news even when it doesn't come.
for all who hope for healing even though they are still anxious.

We pray for all who have lost hope for their children
because they are surrounded by disease, by war, by famine.

We pray for all who build hope
by identifying with the hopeless, by living alongside the desperate
by kissing the weeping child and hugging grief-stricken mothers.

We pray for peace this Christmas:

peace on earth as it is in heaven; peace in our home and cities;
peace in war-zones and feuding families;
peace outside us and inside us;
peace between nations and peace between religions.

We pray for peace-creators and peace-destroyers;
peace-protectors and peace-disturbers;
peace-enablers and peace-breakers.

We pray this Christmas for lovers:

lovers of hope and of peace; lovers of friends and of enemies;
lovers of the loveless and of those injured;
lovers of life and of justice; lovers of animals and of creation;
lovers of beauty, of music, of art;
lovers of babies in straw-filled mangers;
lovers of worship and of generosity.

We ask this in the name of Jesus -hope-giver; peace-maker; love-bringer.

NEW YEAR PETITION

Lord Jesus,

you were a whole person, complete and fulfilled.

Your word was your action and your actions matched your words.

At the turning of the year,

we commit ourselves to marry word and deed,
and thus to follow you.

Lord Jesus,

Man of God you were and man of the people.

At the turning of the year,

we commit ourselves to serve the living God
and care for all His people,
and thus to follow you.

Amen



Southern Synod Synod office, East Croydon URC
Addiscombe Grove Croydon CR0 5LP
Telephone 020 8688 3730 Website - www.urcsouthern.org.uk

Christmas 2015,

Dear Friend,

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus.....



So much of our Christmas preparations have been ‘disinfected’ to consist of warm fuzzy feelings. So it is not surprising that we forget that while Christmas celebrates the coming among us of a tiny baby as the Emmanuel, God-with-us, his coming was indeed a sign of contradiction. We understate the fact that Mary, who was heavily pregnant, and Joseph were turned away from the inn because there was no room. We forget the slaughter of the Holy Innocents and that the infant Jesus was spared their fate only through the hurried flight into Egypt where the Holy Family lived in future hope for many years as what today we would call political refugees.

Yet this is the Christmas reality experienced today by the ever-growing number of migrants and refugees throughout the world. There is a humanitarian crisis on our doorstep. The stark reality is that 12 million Syrians have fled their homes because of conflict; half are children. 4 million are refugees. Children affected by the Syrian conflict are at risk of becoming ill, malnourished, abused, or exploited. Millions have been forced to quit school. More than 700,000 Syrian refugees and other migrants risked their lives this year to travel to Europe. It’s a heartbreaking situation but the headlines scream at us: that most people in the UK don’t want refugees coming here.

It may be difficult to believe, but rather than drawing us closer to God, sometimes Christmas actually draws us away! No wonder the little girl who was praying “forgive us our trespasses” got confused and said, “forgive us our Christmases.” Sometimes we need to be forgiven for our Christmases. We simply leave no room for Jesus.

Over the summer, our family was very fortunate to be able to attend a conference in Speyer, Germany, entitled “We are one”. During our last night our host Sabine, a social worker, who has befriended a number of asylum seekers, invited them to a barbeque at her home. It was fascinating listening to Malik, Ali, Tariq and Issak, four young men from Pakistan and Afghanistan, tell their story of hurried flight and future hope. All four had been in Germany for over two years, Ali nearly three. All four were still waiting for an interview – an interview which would determine their right to stay. All four were graduates, intelligent young men in their twenties. All had left their homeland because they had to – their life was threatened. Tariq had left a wife and two children and hadn’t seen them for over two years. As Issak said: we would not have left our families and our homes unless we had to. This is the Christmas reality: we are not one.

This encounter has left me wondering about the significance of ‘no room in the inn’ that first Christmas and for us in 2015. Perhaps one reason there was no room for Jesus was ignorance. After all, how could the innkeeper know the baby about to be born was the Son of God. Or perhaps the innkeeper was too busy what with everything else that was occupying his time.

The choices which we make as human beings often lead to disaster for ourselves or others. The Christmas story teaches us that the faithful love of God is always seeking better outcomes than human folly dictates. Christmas is the time we celebrate Emmanuel, this God-with-us, who makes the promise of God's faithful love real amongst us. This promise stands in a world which gives us cause to grieve as well as to rejoice. It is no accident that the gospel writers are at pains to set the story of the infant Jesus in a world of power politics, fear and injustice.

It is only when we have the measure of such challenges to our lives (such as we did this summer in our encounter in Speyer) that we can truly celebrate the God who comes among us as a helpless child and, in doing so, reveal to the world that the faithful love of God is greater than anything else.

Russell, Cameron and Ross join me in wishing you the gladness of Christmas, which is hope, the spirit of Christmas, which is peace, and the heart of Christmas, which is love.



Rev. Nicola Furley-Smith Synod Moderator

'I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph.'

Child star actress Shirley Temple

CHRISTMAS POST BOX 2015

The Christmas Post Box will be at the back of the Church on the 6th and 13th December. The cards will be distributed on Sunday 20th 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

Sue's Sister is helping out at **Crisis for Christmas** – they are looking for - Biscuits (chocolate, sweet and savoury)

Savoury snacks (including crisps, cheese crackers, etc.)

Chocolate and confectionery (bars, boxes, tins)

Soft drinks (cans or bottles, still or fizzy)

Please note that all food and drink items must have a 'use by' or 'best before' date after 30th December 2015. Sue will take them along.

December Coffee money goes to **CRISIS**

January coffee Money goes to Demelza House Hospice



Concerned About Your Memory?

Many people over 50 years old become concerned about their memory. We all have trouble remembering everything that happens in our lives. For example, can you remember what you did on 4 June 2009? Chances are you don't remember unless there was a significant event on that day like a birthday or anniversary.

Memory loss becomes a problem when it starts to interfere in your everyday life. You may have trouble remembering where you are or the names of people important in your life. These could be early signs of dementia.

What is dementia?

The term 'dementia' is used to describe a collection of symptoms, including a loss of memory, reasoning and communication skills and a gradual loss of skills needed to carry out daily activities. These symptoms are caused by structural and chemical changes in the brain as a result of physical diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Common signs of dementia

Just because you are getting older does not mean you will have dementia. Dementia is not a natural part of ageing. The common signs of dementia are:

- **Loss of memory** – for example, forgetting the way home from the shops, being unable to remember names and places or what happened earlier the same day.
- **Personality and mood changes** - particularly as parts of the brain that control emotion are affected by disease. Anyone with dementia may also feel sad, frightened or angry about what is happening to them.
- **Communication problems** - a decline in the ability to talk, read and write or finding the right words.
- **Coordination difficulties** - difficulty tying shoe laces or doing up buttons when getting dressed.

What to do if you are concerned about your memory and dementia

The most important thing to do is visit your GP. Your GP and specialist professionals can conduct a series of tests to find out what is causing the changes to your memory. There are other things like medication, alcohol, stress, anxiety, depression and infections that may be causing memory problems.

If you are given a dementia diagnosis, getting help early gives you the opportunity to make choices about your future. Support and information is available from the moment you tell your GP that you have concerns about your memory.

MindCare Dementia Support is part of local charity, Bromley & Lewisham Mind, and provides dementia support, information, training and coaching to individuals and their family and friends. For more information please contact us on 020 8663 0499.

Police in Bromley are asking residents to be vigilant and not to answer the door to cold callers, after victims have been targeted by artifice burglars posing as police officers and water board officials.

Detectives are investigating 6 incidents in the borough over the last two days, three in which two suspects have knocked at the door of elderly residents posing as plain clothed police officers investigating burglaries in the area.

In the other 3 cases the suspects claimed to either be from the water board needing to check water pipes or asking to use a pen as their car had broken down.

Officers from Bromley's Burglary Squad are investigating the incidents and no arrests have been made at this stage.

Detective Inspector Charles Clare, from Bromley CID, said:

"Bogus callers tend to target vulnerable members of the community and often this means elderly people. Although there are still relatively few victims of this type of crime, it can have an enormous impact on their lives if it happens so we want people to be aware and take simple steps to prevent it from happening. If you've got any vulnerable or elderly friends or family, then please make them aware of our advice so that they don't fall foul of this type of scam."

Residents are asked to do the following when somebody unexpected comes to their doorstep:

- Use your door viewer, or look through a window to see who is there and if you are in any doubt, don't answer the door.
- When anyone claims to be from a service company, always ask for I.D. and call the customer services department to confirm their identity - genuine callers won't mind waiting. If they claim to be police officers, you can call 101.
- Many utility companies operate password schemes, so contact yours to set one up - any representative will know this when they visit your home.
- Be wary of anyone who claims they are in a hurry and needs to get in your home quickly.
- Never hand over money to somebody cold calling or let anyone take you to the bank to withdraw money.
- Consider scheduling a time for the caller to come back again, when a friend or relative can be with you.
- If you see anybody acting suspiciously call police on 999.

OFFERINGS

The offerings during October were as follows:-



October 4	£179.00
October 11	£227.00
October 18	£167.55
October 25	£187.00

The after service coffee collections during the month were in aid of Mind and totalled £68.25 .
Anthony Bayley

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

The following is an extract from a letter received from the Society:-

“Thank you so much for your recent donation of £63.00 raised from after service coffee collections. Your support is greatly appreciated and invaluable and we would be grateful if you would pass on our thanks to everyone at Beckenham URC who have been so generous in supporting Alzheimer's Society. The funds will be put to work right away to help people living with dementia and their carers.”

There will be 850,000 people with dementia in the UK by 2015 with numbers set to rise to over 1 million by 2025. This will soar to 2 million by 2051 if no action is taken. This condition has a devastating impact on the lives of those affected and it's thanks to donations like yours that we are able to offer our support, advice and services to people with dementia and their carers.

Gifts like yours have helped over 85,000 people in the last year through our network of services and support groups and have helped us to develop a national helpline which takes over 1,500 enquiries a month and enables us to campaign vigorously for a better future for people affected by dementia as well as funding research.

Do you dream of a world without dementia? So do we.

Once again thank you for your gift. With your help we hope to one day win the battle against dementia.
A.M.B.



During the year we have raised a total of £969.72 for Water Aid which I have now passed on to them. The good news is that this will be doubled by the government and thus we are responsible for almost £2,000 going to Water Aid for the valuable work which they undertake. Thanks to everyone who helped.
Anthony Bayley

CRESCENT CLUB

Our meeting began with a prayer. Muriel told us that she had attended a tree planting in memory of her dear daughter who died this year. She said it was probably an ornamental acer, which is a fitting tree to remember a loved one. We had just one birthday, which was Hilda's, who was 101 on the 10th. God bless you and wishing you a happy day from all of us. Our speaker was Major Patricia Kent, recently retired from the Salvation Army. She had always wanted to be a police woman and did join the Met. at first but then, as the daughter of Salvationist parents, she left to exchange one uniform for another, as it were! From then on she gave her life to the Lord and worked all around the East End of London. During her 51 years she and her husband, who she met in the Salvation Army Headquarters at Denmark Hill, moved to 20 different areas working with the poor and homeless. Her two sons followed them into the Army and they also travel all over, at home and abroad. Her life was so interesting and she brought lots of photos of her police years and then her army years. Lady soldiers, as they were called, do not now wear the famous bonnet, which was designed by William Booth himself as a safety precaution. Right into the early 1900's the army girls were at risk of attacks and the bonnet gave them protection : the hats are like police women's, very heavy and lined with strong material to save the wearer's head. We forget the hardship these young women went through doing the Lord's work, caring for the poor and needy. What brilliant care they gave during the Blitz and even now when there is an emergency the 'Sally Ann' is there with a cuppa and a helping hand. We really enjoyed the talk from Major Kent and wish them both a happy retirement. We ended with tea and cakes and our next meeting is the Christmas lunch and choir.

Patricia Power

TOP OF THE PEW

The Grand Final was played on Friday 20 November in the presence of the Mayor of Bromley. The winners, by 2 points, were our neighbours at St. George's who had beaten us in an earlier round and St. John's Park Road, Bromley were the runners up. Marion was the Question-master and her questions were varied and interesting and well received by all. A representative of Deaf Access gave a fascinating talk about the work of the organisation and was presented with a cheque for £1,500 as a result of the fund raising during the year. A little more will follow later.

Anthony Bayley

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall what the menu was for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be dead today."

No comments were made on the sermon contents anymore.

The logo for Re:Print features the word "Re:" in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by "Print" in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the logo is a thin blue line with the phone number "Tel: 020 8462 4008" and fax number "Fax: 020 8462 3910" in a small, light blue font.

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He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.

Roy L. Smith

Christmas is a tonic for our souls. It moves us to think of others rather than of ourselves. It directs our thoughts to giving.

B. C. Forbes

Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.

Winston Churchill

God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.

Pope Francis

**Copy for the February Outlook
by 24th January please.**

BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Oakhill Road (off Crescent Road)

Minister	Rev'd Sue Powell	020 8462 2212
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 nd & 4 th)	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

