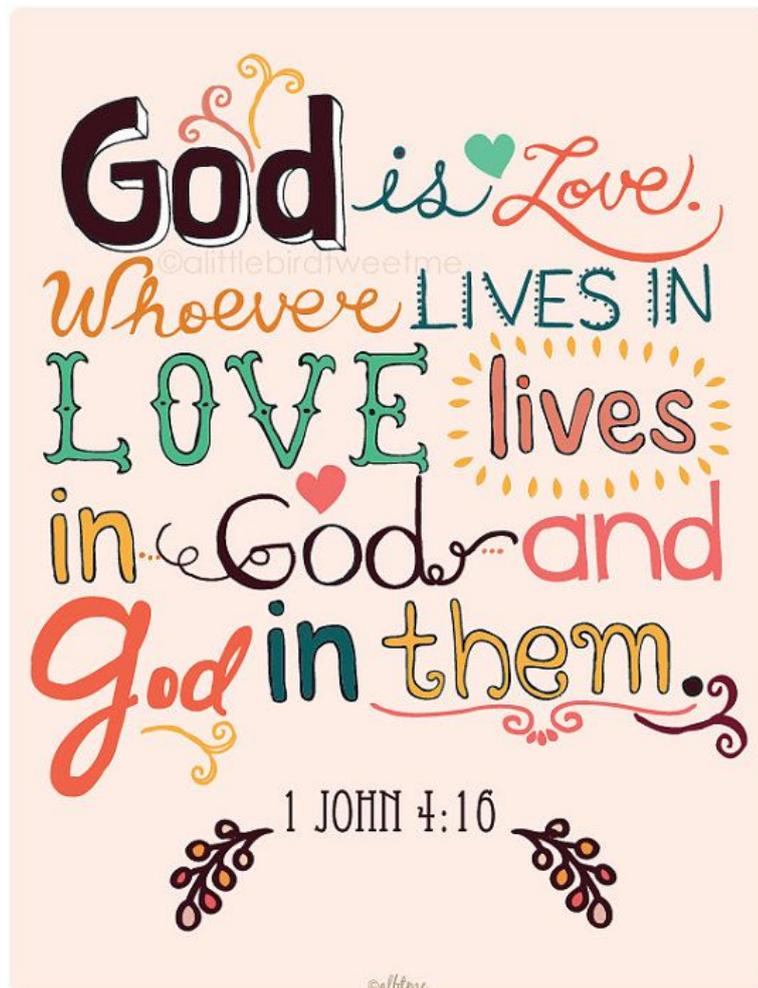




February 2018



Outlook

Beckenham United Reformed Church

www.beckenhamurc.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP - FEBRUARY 2018

4th February Mrs. Marion Moore - including Holy Communion
11th February Rev. Geoff Larcombe
18th February Miss June Curtis
25th February Members Service

OTHER DIARY EVENTS

7th February 2.30pm Bible Study
13th February 2.30pm Crescent Club
13th February 7.30pm Elders
21st February 1pm Luncheon Club

Marion Moore - Lay Preacher from Emmanuel West Wickham
Rev. Geoff Larcombe - a retired Baptist Minister
June Curtis - Lay Reader from St. George's Beckenham

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

4 th	<i>available</i>	Marion Bayley
11 th	Jeane Lane	Monica Duncan
18 th	<i>available</i>	Pat Power
25 th	<i>available</i>	Jane Ball

Having completed last year's accounts it is noted that the flower fund made a loss of £186 in the year. If you enjoy the flowers each week and would like to remember someone or some anniversary one Sunday, why not pay for the flowers that week. Speak to Monica or Anthony about it - Julien

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this letter we are entering the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and already there have been some exchanges of pulpits organised by Churches Together in Beckenham. During our time without a Minister, Marion Bayley has, as ever, stood in for us and has been preaching at Avenue Road Baptist Church, whilst we have welcomed to our pulpit Mr Emmanuel Ojo, of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, who has given us a rousing sermon on the overwhelming love of Jesus Christ. How stimulating it is to be able to partake in such an ecumenical project, so that we learn something of other Christian beliefs and understanding of the word of God.

How many of us had heard of Mr Ojo's church, meeting as it does in a Hall behind Boots in the High Street? Little do we know of "how the other half lives". This is only one of the seventeen churches now working more closely together in Churches Together in Beckenham. It is good to see the growing strength of CTiB. It has fluctuated over the years, and much depends on the enthusiasm and dedication of the Chairman and Secretary, and the time they are able to devote to nurturing the "togetherness". It is so easily pushed to one side under the press of other day to day commitments, but we are particularly blessed at present by the leadership of the Rev. Neil Draisey of Beckenham Baptist Church; Long may it continue.

Looking ahead to Good Friday, as in past years we will be gathering at St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, and then processing together in the Walk of Witness, but this year we will be processing to Croydon Road Recreation Ground, as the route to Beckenham Green is inhibited by the road works in the High Street. This has always been one of the best supported events in the CTiB calendar and we look forward to an excellent turn out again this year.

Alan Duncan

FROM THE SECRETARY

In December, a few of us had an enjoyable afternoon visiting the Hayes Tree Christmas Festival where the trees were as usual decorated to a very high standard. Some of you may not be aware that every year Monica takes on the task of decorating the tree representing Beckenham. Our theme this year was Peace and our tree looked lovely with white lights glowing from it. Monica also decorated the Church for Christmas, so on behalf of us all, I want to thank her for quietly taking on these tasks!

I would also like to thank Marion for leading the services during the Christmas period. John Morley was unwell last week and the Elders stepped in and between us we led the service. Today in our Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we had a very inspiring preacher Emmanuel Ojo. Again the Elders took part in the rest of the service. We may be few in number, but when we have to everyone pulls together! A very big thank you to the Elders! Very much team work at Beckenham!

Sadly we heard that Dudley Davy has died. He had been unwell for a long period of time, so it is a blessing he is no longer suffering. Our love and prayers go to his sister and family.

A lot of our members have been unwell recently with bad colds and other health problems. Mostly they have still managed to come to Church nearly every week. We wish them well as they await results etc.

So we are now in 2018 and we will wait to see what this year holds for us. We still have a long way to go to get a Special Category Minister, but the ball has started to roll! Let us hope that by the end of this year we will have welcomed a new Minister for us and Widmore Road, Bromley!

Gill Ross

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service this year takes place at St. George's Church on Friday 2nd March at 2pm. It is entitled "All God's Creation is Very Good" and has been organised by the women of Suriname. ALL are very welcome and hope that you can come along and support it.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Gill Ross

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Praise the Lord, all the earth.

A time is surely coming when the poor will be fed,
the powerful will bow down,
and all creation will know that God is Lord of all.

Praise the Lord, all the earth.

A time is surely coming when the wise will see Him,
the people will praise Him
and the children will serve our Lord God, Lord of all.

Praise the Lord, all the earth.

Loving Lord God,

We recognise that we have failed you and our neighbours.

We confess that we have fallen from the life that is offered to us
through the death of Jesus Christ.

We acknowledge that the love of God is rescuing us from sin
and restoring us to grace.

In testing, hardship and suffering,
may we be willing to offer all that we are and all that we have
to be followers in the way of Jesus Christ.

We pray for followers of Jesus Christ:

for those who are imprisoned for their faith;

for those who serve as missionaries; for teachers of the faith.

We pray for those who deny themselves to serve others:

for those who work in hospitals and prisons; for those who are
carers;

for those who serve their communities as volunteers.

We pray for those who carry the weight of a cross:

for the homeless and unemployed; for those who are ill or
bereaved;

for those who struggle with mental health or loneliness.

We pray for ourselves as we follow Jesus Christ:

for strength to overcome our struggles and failures;

for trust and hope to defeat our fears and worries;

for grace to surround those whom we love and those who love us.

Amen

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH MEETING -14th January 2018

IN THE CHAIR: Mr. Julien Ball

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr. & Mrs P. Hunt

MINUTES of the meeting held on 15th Oct 2017 were duly signed.

MATTERS ARISING: None

NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Mr. Anthony Bayley, Mrs Bayley

PASTORAL NEWS:

A minute's silence was held in respect of the death of one of our members - Mr. Dudley Davy.

News of the Church family was exchanged and prayers offered for those in need.

ECUMENICAL REPORT:

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity starts on Thursday 18th January. We have a visiting Minister from the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Marion has a meeting this coming week on Wednesday 17th January.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

- a. Correspondence – None for Church Meeting
- b. Pulpit Supply - A few changes in coming months. Gill reminded everyone that our Moderator is coming on Sunday 29th April and we are having our church Anniversary Service on Sunday 17th June when our Interim Moderator Mrs. Hilary Miles will take the service.
- c. Vacancy - Gill informed members that she had heard that the Accreditations Sub-Committee had agreed in principle to Bromley's application for a special category minister. Bromley now have 2 assessors to go to their church to check that all is as described in the application. There is still a long way to go but we are getting closer.
- d. Christmas Services - It was agreed that all services had been successful.

Marion was thanked for all her hard work in arranging them.

JOINT PASTORATE: nil to report

FABRIC:

A fire door still needs to be replaced. An estimate has been accepted and we are just waiting for the work to be done.

The windows in the Leslie Thompson Hall have been a great success.

FINANCE: Anthony has done the draft accounts and these will be taken to Fabric and Finance this coming week.

Anthony explained a document the church has received, from Church House regarding Lettings. A resolution had to be agreed.

“The Church Meeting of the Beckenham United Reformed Church authorises the Elders’ Meeting as agent for the trustee to permit the hiring of the church/hall premises for any reputable purpose when not required for church use.”

This was seconded by Mr. Alan Duncan and unanimously passed.

FUTURE EVENTS: New Year Lunch -28th January

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Anthony informed us he is updating the Church Directory and asked for any changes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 18th March 2018

The meeting closed with the saying of the Grace

Hello to 2018 from Jude & Clive

Firstly, thank you for our festive greetings.

This year marks a quarter century since our first visit to Crescent Road. We have all seen so many changes over the years, people come and go as they follow their own personal journey through life.

This is just a little note to send our appreciation of the kindness and support that we have been given.

Little did I realise that when I first came to the church all those years ago and Pat took me around and I met the organist David: ‘Oh Mr Holmes’ - my old primary school teacher, and that so much would come to pass, more than ever expected. I came to see the church whilst Clive was in Delft working, he was there for a month and

returning at weekends. I was unaware that Valentine's Eve would lead to a very different life. He must have missed me, came back the second weekend and proposed, and then seventeen weeks later Crescent Road URC was the church where our vows were exchanged. Reverend Ian Bird officiated and, of course, David played the organ. I smile when I remember asking 'do you think you would be able to play,', a slightly more complex tune than sometimes heard. The retort was 'I took my organ studies in Durham'. I smile fondly as I recall these memories. How strange it was that the teacher who took my primary school class to Boulogne for a day trip with his wife Edna, introduced me to the escapades of Sherlock Holmes, and much more, should be playing on my wedding day. I had not seen him since those school days. Gradually, Clive got to know David as well, along with his very dry humour. Does one ever think they may possibly celebrate one of those 'special anniversary's'- we are making the Silver one this year! A far cry from the ones reached by many nowadays.

However, saying that, we wanted to share our thanks with you all, to wish you all the best as another year has started, a special one for us, our way of sharing it with you.

Thank you all for your care and friendship over the years.

Fond thoughts, Jude & Clive Gilbert

FOOD BANK

For some time, I have been concerned about our donations to the food bank. We rarely seem to have any new donations and it doesn't appear that our donations are delivered to the food bank regularly. We committed ourselves to help this most worthwhile cause a couple of years ago and we would appear to be failing in that commitment.

If each one of us brings ONE item – a can or a packet or a carton – each time we came to worship, we will make an enormous difference to the people who have to turn to the food banks for help at times of great need and with winter upon us the need will grow.

I know that the majority of us are on a fixed income but surely one item will not break the bank.

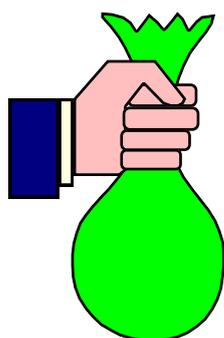
However, we also have to solve the problem of getting our gifts to the distribution points. Unless someone did this on 21st January, the gifts that are in the box have been there from 2 weeks before Christmas.

Alan has done the deliveries and Julien and Jane have also undertaken this task. Are you able to help? You just need a car and possibly a friend to help carry the items plus the address for delivery from Julien.

Surely it is part of our Walking the Way with Jesus to give this small service to our community and thereby to God. Marion

OFFERINGS

The offerings during November and December were as follows:-



November 5	£146.50
November 12	£114.50
November 19	£160.60
November 26	£122.70
December 3	£157.50
December 10	£145.39
December 17	£161.00
December 24	£84.00

The after service coffee collections during November were in aid of the Royal British Legion and totalled £61.95. Collections during December were in aid of Crisis. Please see the separate article in this edition of Outlook. Anthony Bayley

CRISIS

Our Christmas Charity in 2017 was again Crisis. I have been able to send them a grand total of £464.38 and this was reached as follows

Christmas Fair	300.68
In lieu of postage - Christmas cards	50.00
Donations	59.09
Sunday morning coffee collections	54.61
TOTAL	£464.38

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible. A.B.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Just before Christmas I received a letter from the British Legion of which this is part.

“Please accept my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Royal British Legion for your donation of £61.95. This is the busiest time of year for our Helpline and the case workers. Right now your gift could be helping us to support members of the Armed Forces community calling for support. With your contribution, we can help them in many ways – just like we helped Dave.

When former Serviceman Dave first got in touch with the Legion he felt depressed and lonely and had no support network. But after calling our Helpline, Dave was put in touch with me, as a Legion outreach case worker, I was able to give Dave the help he needed to change his life for the better.

Dave’s recovery began with a phone call. Every hour the Legion receives 13 calls from members of the Armed Forces community, just like Dave, who are looking for support. We need to be there to answer every one of these calls and get these brave people the help they need – that’s why your donation is so important. It could help us answer the phone call that could help to change another life.

Thank you once again for your support”

A.M.B.

CHRISTMAS FAIR



Don’t panic. This isn’t about the 2018 Christmas Fair! I know it seems a long time ago but this is the first opportunity to provide a report on the 2017 one. The weather was reasonably kind to us and we had a fair number of visitors to sample the stalls and the competitions and perhaps sit with friends for a coffee or tea and a chat. The final net result was a profit of around £600 which as usual was shared between church funds and our Christmas Charity Crisis. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped, in whatever way, to make this magnificent result possible. I give on the next page, for your information, the breakdown of the results by individual stalls.

Cakes	£109.25
Raffle	£133.20
Gifts	£63.30
Books	£36.70
Coffee	£32.10
Brownies	£87.95
Competitions	£40.96
Guides	£97.50
Donations	£10.00
Guests	£37.40
Total	£648.36
Less advertising	£47.00
NET PROFIT	£601.36

Anthony Bayley

WATER AID

At the end of last year I was able to send WaterAid a cheque for £862.47 which we had raised during the year as follows.

Harvest special collection	662.63
Collecting jar	22.12
Gift Aid refund from 2016	163.25
Share of Sunday coffee collections	14.47
TOTAL	£862.47

Thank you again for helping to achieve this magnificent total. I have subsequently received a letter from them of which this is part.

“Thank you from everyone in Tombohuaun! We recently received your church’s gift of £862.47 and wanted to thank you all so much for your generosity. Your wonderful gift of £862.47 will be doubled by the UK Government, enabling us to reach twice as many communities like Tombohuaun with safe water. The gift from your church will help us to install a tapstand in Tombohuaun, bringing a reliable source of clean water to the village. We’ll also train the community on how to look after their new water supply so it lasts for the long term. The amazing support from churches like yours is transforming lives around the world.

With warm regards and many thanks”

If you, like me, were wondering where Tombohuaun is, I have checked and can report as follows:-

“Tombohuaun is a farming and fishing village deep in the jungle of Sierra Leone. This area is known as 'the place where bad things come from'; the first shots of civil war were fired here, and it's where the first cases of Ebola were reported. Despite this, the residents of this village are resourceful and community-minded. But without clean water or decent toilets, it has been a place of untapped potential. Women and children would have to collect water from a dirty spring – water that made everyone sick. And as the only water source in Tombohuaun, there was no other choice. This winter, all of that is going to change. With your support, a hand pump, decent toilets and hygiene education will transform life there for good. They are already making progress. You are helping to make Tombohuaun a place where good things come from.”

Anthony Bayley

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

The following is part of a letter received from the Programme Coordinator.

“Thank you so much for your kind donation of £767.59 to Commitment for Life and for the time and effort given by your church in supporting the programme. Your continued generosity towards our support for Christian Aid’s work in our four partner areas and for campaigns led by Global Justice Now is much appreciated. We are indebted to you for your involvement and prayers for Commitment for Life. Prayers are needed for the continuing situation in Gaza and increased restrictions in the West Bank.

In a society, suspicious of fundraisers, please be assured that your contributions make a real difference to our partner communities, by providing hope where there is often none.

With grateful thanks

Linda Mead

A.M.B.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Over the next couple of months I will be arranging a new edition of the Church Directory. If any of your information has changed over the last couple of years please let me know. I am including mobile phone numbers this time and if you would like yours to be included please

again let me know. We use email more and more these days when this is possible so if you have an email address and would like this to be included please again let me know.

If you would prefer not to have your information included in this booklet, you are completely within your rights and all you need to do is let me know. Thanks for your assistance.

Anthony Bayley

Thoughts on Love this Valentine's Day -

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that - Martin Luther King, Jr

Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead. Oscar Wilde

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. Mother Teresa

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with petrol just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

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 March Outlook by 18th February.

BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Oakhill Road (off Crescent Road)

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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
U3A Arts Class	Monday	14.00 – 16.00
Janie Harris Ballet School	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
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
Guides	Wednesday	19.00 – 20.30

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

