



**March 2018**



# Outlook

**Beckenham United Reformed Church**

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

## SUNDAY WORSHIP - MARCH 2018

4th March	Mr. Stephen Fellingham including Holy Communion
11th March	Mr. Alan Kienlan
18th March	Mr. Mike Tinson -followed by Church Meeting & Ploughman's Lunch
25th March	Major Cliff Kent
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Maundy Thursday Service - Emmanuel Church – West Wickham at 8pm.

**Stephen Fellingham** is the Local Leader at Bromley URC Widmore Road. **Alan Kienlan** – is a Lay Preacher from Emmanuel URC West Wickham **Mike Tinson** – is a local Methodist Lay Preacher **Major Cliff Kent** - a member of the Salvation Army

### OTHER DIARY EVENTS

7th March	2.30pm	Bible Study
13th March	2.30pm	Crescent Club at <b>110 Hayes Way</b>
13th March	7.30pm	Elders
21st March	1pm	Luncheon Club

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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.

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	<b>Donors</b>	<b>Arrangers</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>available</i>	Muriel Aldcroft
11 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>available</i>	Marion Bayley
18 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>available</i>	Pat Power
25 <sup>th</sup> March	The Duncans	Monica Duncan

Dear Friends,

I am writing this as we are about to enter the season of Lent. This important part of the church year, which was originally 36 days, was introduced by Pope Felix III in the fourth century as a time of penitence in preparation for the jubilation of Easter. Four days were added in the year 487 and the link made with the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and being tempted in the wilderness. In the Bible, the number 40 represents 'a long period of time':

- The Flood lasted for 40 days and 40 nights.
- The Hebrew people spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness before reaching the Promised Land.
- Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai with God, before receiving the Ten Commandments.

Self denial is what Lent is all about. It is a season of penitence in a positive way, to prepare for the events of Holy Week. The word lent has emerged from Old English “lengthen” and the original name for Spring when the days lengthen. The Lenten semi-fast possibly emerged from practical necessity as the previous autumn's harvest was beginning to run out.

Many people give something up for Lent – chocolate, sweets, biscuits and alcohol are common ones. If so bear in mind that the 40 days do not include Sundays!!!. It can also be a positive time rather than a negative one, however. How about increased bible reading or prayer time? This would be ideal preparation for Easter.

Lent is also traditionally a time for almsgiving, preferably in private rather than overly publicly. We all have our favourite charities so that's another possibility for you to consider.

I think Lent is going to be a busy time but whatever you decide to do, recall above everything else that it is a time of preparation for Easter during which we remember the journey of Jesus which led inevitably to Jerusalem and a cross - but also to ultimate triumph on Resurrection morning.

Happy Lent!

Anthony

## FROM THE SECRETARY

The Elders have been dealing with a quite a lot of correspondence which has been sent to us from Synod.

Our latest document was how to establish good data protection practice in our Church. I am sure you are all aware how careful we must be in today's society, especially as our magazine is published on line. Hence from now on, I will not be mentioning anything about our members, unless it is really important!

Suffice to say, though some have problems, we keep going!

Elsewhere in the magazine you will see that Women's World Day of Prayer takes place on 2nd March. The local committee have had discussions about its name as it also has all over the country, and it is possible that in the future it will just be called World Day of Prayer, in the hopes that more men will come to the service!

We are looking forward to Stephen Fellingham coming to preach at the beginning of March. He is the lay leader of Bromley Widmore Road who we are now paired with so it will be nice for our members to meet him.

It is lovely to see the snowdrops and daffodils now blooming.

The first sign of Spring which is always very welcome!

Gill Ross

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## Lectionary

**4<sup>th</sup> March** Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

**11<sup>th</sup> March** Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-2

**18<sup>th</sup> March** Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12  
or

Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

**25<sup>th</sup> March** Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Mark 11:1-11  
Or John 12:12-16

OR

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

## PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

God of awe and wonder,  
as your Son turned his face towards Jerusalem  
and prepared himself for trials and agony, crucifixion and death,  
help us in this season of Lent, as we turn towards Passiontide,  
to turn our hearts towards you,  
that we might become part of his story of change and transformation,  
forever mindful of his sacrifice, forever grateful for your love.

God of mercy and compassion,  
we ask you to forgive our frailty and our weakness.  
Like your disciples who went before us  
we have not always understood what you strive to teach us;  
we have not always been as bold in our witness as we could have  
been;  
we have not always stood by the faith we hold so dear  
and there have been times when we have betrayed your love.  
Have mercy on us and forgive us for we are weak and frail  
and strengthen us in and for your service.

God of all,  
we turn to you to pray for those who, like Christ Jesus,  
are ridiculed for what they believe  
and persecuted for what they hold dear ....  
We turn to you to pray for those who, like Christ Jesus,  
put their lives on the line for others  
in the full knowledge of the risks they are taking ....  
We turn to you to pray for those who, like Christ Jesus,  
are beaten and abused,  
the victims of torture and brutality ....  
We turn to you to pray for those who, like Christ Jesus,  
are betrayed by friends and colleagues  
who run away at their time of greatest need ....  
We turn to you to pray for those who, like Christ Jesus,  
know their need of you and turn to you in prayer.  
How does it feel, Lord Jesus, to know that your ministry is soon to  
end?

Do you wonder if all you worked for will continue?  
How does it feel, Lord Jesus, to travel to Jerusalem  
knowing that this will lead to death?  
Do you fear the pain, are you afraid?  
How does it feel, Lord Jesus, to prepare your friends for your  
departure?  
Do you trust them, really trust them, to remain strong?  
How does it feel, Lord Jesus, to let go?  
To take the risk? To have the faith?  
Did you think it would end up this this, with us here,  
Still keeping faith is you?

Loving God,  
Sweep into our lives and brush up the mess we make.  
Show us how to clean up our act  
and clear out the things that hold us back.  
Help us to declutter and be content with less.  
Polish away the dust that prevents us enjoying what we have.  
Above all, keep us true to you.

May our words and thoughts be always acceptable to you.  
May our deeds and actions be always worthy of you.  
May our lives show forth your love in the world.

AMEN

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This year's **Women's World Day of Prayer** has been arranged by the women of Suriname and is entitled "All God's Creation is Very Good!" Each year the committee have a prayer book given to them and these are just two short prayers from it.

God of creation and Lord of life. You entrusted us to care for our environment, but in many parts of the world we have failed. Help us to realise how fragile and instable our surroundings are, because we are not looking after your creation. We need to be true stewards and to understand how the most insignificant little flower, the tiniest of insects, each creature and individual people are all part, of a wondrous whole. Amen

Our world is broken and who is to blame  
The people of God hang your heads in shame  
Muslim, Christians and many others too  
Fighting and shouting but, whatever for  
There is only one God who will open his door  
with mercy and love for all to enter in  
A new life of wonder about to begin  
So now let us start anew life today  
Of mercy and love for all in our sway  
A new beginning forever and always.  
Amen

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## **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



**COFFEE** money for March goes to –

### **THE SAMARITANS**

Samaritans was founded in 1953 by Chad Varah. It has 201 branches across the UK and Republic of Ireland. Since 1984 Samaritans has received over 68 million contacts in which people felt able to speak,

type or write.

It uses over 20,000 trained volunteers who are involved in outreach and public awareness work, including 648 branch volunteers supporting the Listener scheme in prisons.

## OFFERINGS

The offerings during January were as follows:-



January 7	£204.00
January 14	£181.00
January 21	£160.20
January 28	£111.50

The after service coffee collections during this period were in aid of Demelza House and totalled £49.90.

Anthony Bayley

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## COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

Following the 2014 Israeli military offensive in Gaza, Christian Aid's work in Gaza has transitioned of late from humanitarian aid to house construction and supporting people to earn an income. Over 18,000 homes were heavily damaged or destroyed in the 2014 offensive, leaving 500,000 people internally displaced. This is the story of one such family.

In 2014 Bassam Abu Said's home, olive and date trees were completely destroyed. His 12 family members were left homeless and without an income. Bassam and his family had no safety or stability. They had to live in a temporary shelter made of rusty pipes and nylon sheets with no power or running water. They had to ask relatives if they could stay with them for periods when the rain and cold were too severe in the shelter. The children struggled at school, suffering from continuous illnesses caused by the conditions.

After 2 long years, Bassam and his family finally have a new home, constructed with support from Christian Aid's partners and the Disasters Emergency Committee. The house has provided the family with the safety and protection they need. Bassam said, "Finally I have a house! For more than 2 years I have wished I could feel safe, surrounded by walls that protect my family from the weather changes and people's stares. This house has brought my family together again and we are as close to each other as we were before losing our home. I still dream, like any normal Gaza citizen, of safety and stability."

## TOP OF THE PEW

Our First Round match this year will be played on Sunday evening 4 March at 8.00 p.m. in our church. Our opponents, who have a long way to travel, are our neighbours St. Barnabas! Our charity this year is to be the Marjorie McClure Special School in Chislehurst. If anyone is able to come along on the Sunday evening to cheer us on we will be delighted to see you.

Anthony Bayley

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## CRESCENT CLUB

On a cold and windy day nine members met at Elma and Roland's house for our meeting. Muriel said the prayers and read the notices, then Mary did the Birthday list. This month Elma and I were the February "girls". Our host Roland then entertained us with a sing-a-long. All the old songs which we all know. Really wonderful. He has so many song books to choose from and of course he has that lovely grand piano. After his medley Monica took over the piano and played some fantastic Ivor Novello songs for us to sing. Happy memories of days gone by. After that it was time for tea and cakes. Elma's sponge cake is to die for, not good for those of us on diets!! During tea we chatted and laughed, a very happy afternoon for which we thank Elma and Roland for their hospitality. Sylvia was ill with flu and Sheila G. was on holiday, but the rest of us enjoyed the venue. The next meeting will be at Muriel's house on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

I thought this item which follows will amuse our readers.

I looked in the mirror, and what did I see?

But a little old lady, peering back at me.

With bags and sags and wrinkles, and wispy white hair

And I asked my reflection, how did you get there?

You once were straight and vigorous, and now you're stooped and weak

When I tried so hard to stop you, from becoming an antique,

My reflection's eyes twinkled, and she solemnly replied

You're looking at the gift wrap and not the jewel inside.

A living gem and precious, of unimagined worth  
Unique and true, the real you, the only you on earth.  
The years that spoil your gift wrap, with other things more cruel  
Should purify, and strengthen, and polish up that jewel.  
So focus your attention on the inside, not the out  
On being kinder, wiser, more content and more devout.  
Then, when your gift wrap's tipped away, your jewel will be set free  
To radiate God's glory, throughout eternity.

Patricia Power

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## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Over the next month 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

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A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven.."

**Copy for the April Outlook by 18th March, please**

# BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Oakhill Road (off Crescent Road)

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

## *Church organisations*

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

Pilates	Monday	19.30 – 20.45
	Tuesday	09.30 – 12.00
	Thursday	09.30 – 12.00
	Monday	14.00 – 16.00
U3A Arts Class	Monday	14.00 – 16.00
	Monday	15.15 – 21.00
	Tuesday	16.00 – 21.00
	Thursday	16.00 – 17.45
	Friday	16.45 – 19.15
Janie Harris Ballet School	Saturday	08.00 – 16.15
	Mon - Fri	08.30 – 12.30
	Tuesday	20.00 – 22.00
Montessori	Saturday	14.30 – 16.30
	Tuesday	20.00 – 22.00
Spanish Dancing	Saturday	14.30 – 16.30
	Tuesday	20.00 – 22.00
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
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