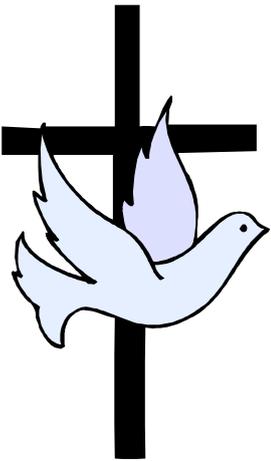


MAY 2018



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**

Acts 2.4

Outlook

Beckenham United Reformed Church

www.beckenhamurc.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP - MAY 2018

6th May Mr. J Ball & Mrs. Gill Ross - including Holy Communion
13th May Rev. Fiona Thomas followed by lunch
20th May Rev. Fiona Thomas followed by Church meeting
27th May Rev. Fiona Thomas

OTHER DIARY EVENTS

2nd May 2.30pm Bible Study
8th May 2.30pm Crescent Club
8th May 7.30pm Elders
16th May 1pm Luncheon Club
13th May - 12.30pm - Ploughman's Lunch in aid of Christian Aid

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
6th May	available	Jane Ball
13th	The Duncans	Monica Duncan
20th	The Bayleys	Marion Bayley
27th	Muriel Aldcroft	Muriel Aldcroft

Dear Friends,

I am writing this at the end of a beautiful, sunny day (though apparently the “Pest from the West” will be bringing us some more cold, wet and possibly snowy weather soon), a new Royal Prince has been born and Gill and I have just returned from a rehearsal for Prom Praise.

This concert is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the start of Tearfund, the Christian relief and development agency based in the UK which has worked in over 50 countries worldwide. Tearfund primarily focuses on supporting those in poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities through local congregations. A week after Prom Praise we will be sharing in Christian Aid week, raising money for relief work throughout the world.

Both of these organisations demonstrate the outpouring of Christian love and service made possible at the feast of Pentecost, which we celebrate this year of 20th May. This is the day when God’s Holy Spirit swept the first disciples out of the Upper Room and into the street where thousands of people were gathered for the feast. All of them were able to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ in ways they could each understand and the Christian Church was born to love and serve God and our neighbours.

A week later, Trinity Sunday focuses our awe and wonder on our Triune God – God in three persons: God the Creator, who caused our world to be born, who sustains it every day and who we can call Father because of God the Son, the Creation Word made flesh, who lived and worked among us and who paid the price of our forgiveness and redemption through his death on the cross and who rose again to conquer our ultimate enemy of death; God the Holy Spirit, who moved across the waters of Creation and who breathes the life and love, the compassion and kindness of God into everyone who believes in God.

What a season of joy and love, of service and worship we are called to share with our brothers and sister across the world. May it bring the blessing and grace of God to us all.

Marion

FROM THE SECRETARY

Marion and I have just had a trip to the Lake District with our local Trefoil Guild. Though the weather was not brilliant, the whole area was covered with daffodils and there were so many little lambs in the fields. At times like these, one realises there is no place like England!

After inspection of Monica's kitchen at her house and the kitchen at the Church, we have been given a 5 star rating! All the hard work has paid off! Really good news for such a small Church!

How many of you read the magazine SAGA. It was a lovely surprise to read in last month's issue a letter (and a photo) from Muriel about a window in Downe Church commemorating Robin Knox-Johnston. Certainly sounds worth a visit!

I have heard from John Grundy (our ex-student). His Ordination and Induction will take place at St. Andrews URC Brockley on Saturday 4th August at 2pm. Anyone who is able is invited to attend the Service. He also had an article published in Reform last month. We wish him well for the future!

The Rev. Fiona Thomas who is Secretary for Education and Learning for the United Reformed Church is taking three services for us this month. We extend a very warm welcome to her.

Gill Ross

Lectinary

6th May Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17,

13th May Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19

20th May Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27, or Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

27th May Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

*A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog,
when you are just as hungry as the dog.* Jack London

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP for PENTECOST and TRINITY

Come, sing to the Lord for as long as you live.
Come, sing praises as long as you have being.
Come, sing with the breath and the wind and the fire of the Spirit.

We come before you, Lord God, in awe and wonder and praise.
We come with joy and celebration because you bid us come.
You call us to kneel before you. You guide us.
You reassure us that you are our God and we are your people.
We come blessed by your creation, moved by the gift of Jesus,
motivated by the in-dwelling of your Holy Spirit.
We give thanks for your power that gives us
eyes to see your working in us;
ears to hear your call and the cries of those around us;
feelings to be moved by your Spirit.
We give thanks for your reassuring presence with us that gives us faith to
know it is you who speaks and dwells and moves us.

Holy God,
We confess that we sometimes struggle to understand you;
to understand how “what is” can be.
We confess that we fail to trust you as we ought.
We lose our way in our confusion,
losing sight of your reassuring hand,
losing vision of all we should do in your name.
Forgive us,
and may the breath of your Spirit enliven us to accept your forgiveness,
and testify to your love, your truth and your being.

God the Father, ground us in your being as we pray for those who flounder
and struggle with the pressures of life. May they see some shape, some
purpose to life and find a way to move forward. May their struggles
become less tangled, and may they find calm in the chaos of their living.
God the Son, enfold us in your love as we pray for those who know little of
love, security and peace; for those who live in fear and loneliness; for those

who are shrouded in pain and smothered by death; for those without family support and succour, the friendless and the homeless.

May they know that your arms surround them and hold them safe.

God the Holy Spirit, embolden us to share as we pray for those who have no hopes, no dreams, no visions; for those who have no knowledge of you, who have not seen you, nor felt you, nor encountered you; for those without faith and trust, those seemingly lost to themselves and to you.

May they know you walking beside them throughout life.

Eternal, ever-present God, call us on a journey with you

for we would walk with you/

Almighty God, show us your power for we would walk with you.

Loving Jesus, show us your love for we would walk with you.

Holy Spirit, burn within us for we would walk with you

now and always.

Amen

CRESCENT CLUB

April is here and all the trees and plants are starting to come to life and people are planning their gardens; a lovely time of year.

Our meeting on a bright afternoon was fairly well attended and Muriel began with a prayer.

Our theme was “To be our not to be.” Monica, the birthday girl, read an extract from Shakespeare’s play. Mary told us of her happy years with amateur dramatics when things could and did go very wrong during a play! Gill’s story was of singing at the Royal Albert Hall in “Prom Praise”. She told us how long and hard the rehearsals were, but that the concert was worth all the effort. My take was how I decided to de-clutter, going through all the things in the drawers brought back so many memories that I could not get rid of much. So much of it went back into the drawers. How hard it is to throw your life into a black sack. I’ll leave that to those who follow me!

After that it was just a chit chat and tea and cakes. How quickly old father time moves, we are now only a few weeks away from the long bright summer days.

Our next meeting, in May, is our AGM and will include memories of the Second World War and our childhoods during those awful times.

Patricia Power

OFFERINGS

The offerings during March were as follows:-



March 4	£127.00
March 11	£170.00
March 18	£118.50
March 25	£121.80

The after service coffee collections during this period were in aid of the Samaritans and totalled £59.00.

Anthony Bayley

DEMELZA

The following is an excerpt from a letter recently received from Demelza Hospice.

“I would like to say a huge thank you for choosing to support Demelza Hospice Care for children and donating £49.90 from your after service coffee collections. Your support really does mean so much to us.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and the extension at our Eltham Hospice has given us a brilliant start. We’ve cared for thousands of seriously ill children and their families since 1998 across Kent, South East London and East Sussex and because of your donation and the generosity of our local community, we will be able to continue to help families; from diagnosis, during day to day family life, times of crisis and through bereavement, for years to come.

Your support means everything to Demelza and the families we care for and you help us to make every moment count for the growing number of seriously ill children in our community and those who love them.

On behalf of everyone at Demelza, thank you.”

A.M.B.

The charity that is a trifle to us can be precious to others -Homer

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

A key part of Christian Aid's work in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory is supporting local citizens to understand and defend human rights, Christian Aid's partner B'Tselem started a video project allowing people to record the abuses they saw.

Imad abu-Shamsiyah lives in Hebron, in the West Bank, with his wife Faizeh and their 5 children. Since 2011, Imad and his wife have volunteered with our partner to film their daily lives, illustrating the harassment, assaults and pervasive discrimination they experience from Israeli settlers and security forces.

On 24 March 2016, while Imad was sitting down for coffee with Faizeh and one of his daughters, he heard gunshots and immediately went to video the situation on the street. Two Israeli soldiers had been attacked by two young Palestinians. Imad filmed a sequence of events in the aftermath of this attack showing Sgt. Elor Azaria, a then 19 year old Israeli army medic, shooting and killing Abdul Fattah al-Sharif, one of the 2 young Palestinians, while he lay unarmed and wounded on the street.

Imad shared the video with B'Tselem instead of accepting payment from a news agency for exclusive broadcasting rights. The video was used as evidence in the trial of Sgt. Azaria and supported the prosecution and ultimate conviction of manslaughter in a military court. This choice came with economic hardships as Imad bravely opted for justice over economic gain, despite the fragile position he and his family are in to make ends meet. With the support of B'Tselem, Imad continues to film his family's daily reality because he believes it helps, at times, to protect his children from false arrest, and his home from illegal entrance by settlers.

C for L say "Thank you for your support through C for L, which is protecting human rights in Hebron and across the region."

P.S. This case was huge news in Israel and even reached the news in the UK. Sgt. Azaria was sentenced to 18 months in prison, reduced to 14 months on appeal, but the President of Israel refused to pardon him.

A.M.B.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week runs from Sunday 13th May until Saturday 19th May. We will be undertaking some house to house collecting, as far as we are able, and if you would like to help in some way please let me know. We will be holding our Christian Aid lunch on Sunday 13th May and further details will be found elsewhere in this edition. I hope that we have a good attendance with an appropriately successful financial result. I'm sure we will!!

Anthony Bayley



COFFEE money for May goes, as usual in May, to –

Christian Aid

‘Why don’t oysters give to charity? Because they’re shellfish.’ - Jay Leno

An 18th-century vagabond in England, exhausted and famished, came to a roadside Inn with a sign reading: **“George and the Dragon.”** He knocked. The Innkeeper’s wife stuck her head out a window.

“Could ye spare some victuals?” He asked.

The woman glanced at his shabby, dirty clothes. “No!” she shouted.

“Could I have a pint of ale?” “No!” she shouted.

“Could I at least sleep in your stable?” “No!” she shouted again.

The vagabond said, “Might I please...?”

“What now?” the woman screeched, not allowing him to finish.

“D’ye suppose,” he asked, “that I might have a word with George?”

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 June Outlook by 20th May

BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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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
	Monday	15.15 – 21.00
Janie Harris Ballet School	Tuesday	16.00 – 21.00
	Thursday	16.00 – 17.45
	Friday	16.45 – 19.15
	Saturday	08.00 – 16.15
	Mon - Fri	08.30 – 12.30
Montessori	Tuesday	20.00 – 22.00
	Saturday	14.30 – 16.30
Spanish Dancing	Wednesday	14.00 – 16.30
	Wednesday	18.30 – 20.00
U3A Guitars(2 nd & 4 th)	Wednesday	17.00 – 18.00
Brownies	Wednesday	19.00 – 20.30
Rainbows		
Guides		

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



Christian Aid Week: Together we're stronger than the storms



It's over a year since Marcelin and his daughters lost their home, but they're still living in a 2x2m windowless concrete block.

In Haiti, Marcelin raised his three daughters alone. They've endured some of the worst natural disasters on earth. They're not just survivors. They're fighters. But they're only so strong. They won't survive the next hurricane without your help.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be in their corner. You can help them build a home that will weather the next storm, so they won't need to fight to survive anymore.

Christian Aid Week unites kingdom builders like you from all walks of life. We step out in mission for our neighbours like Marcelin, because we believe in life before death. We believe God's kingdom is stronger than the storms.