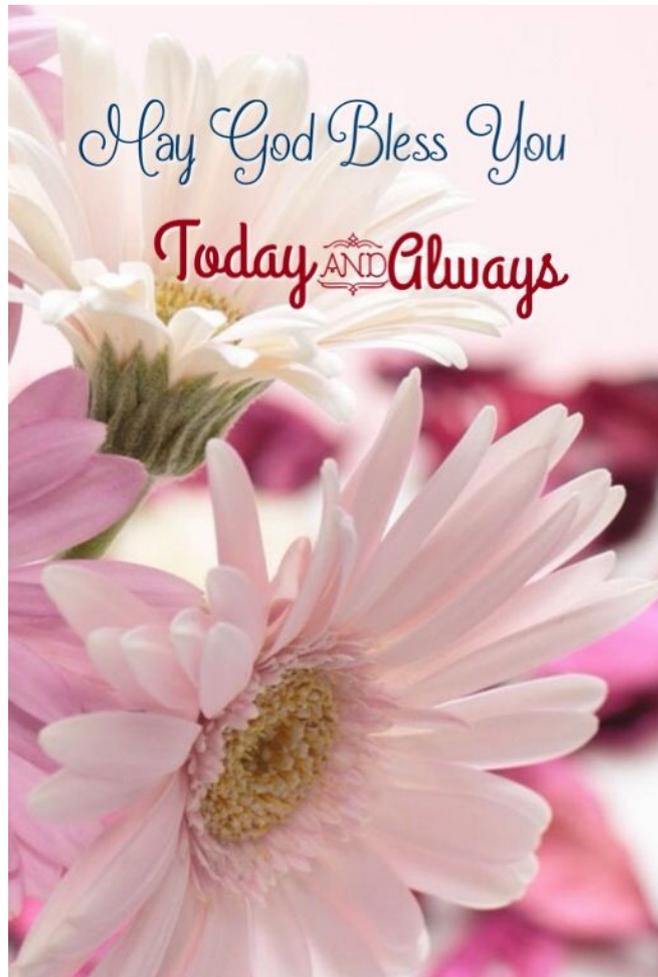


MAY 2020



Outlook

Beckenham United Reformed Church

www.beckenhamurc.com

Dear Beckenham URC,

I have been writing to you every week during this crisis and at times twice a week. It has been important to keep in touch during this fast-paced time with such significant changes taking place. We certainly are in a situation that most of us could not have imagined happening in our life time. We watched a movie on NETFLIX last week called *Pandemic*, which was eerily accurate and reflective of where we are at the moment.

However, there is one difference and a significant one. This global pandemic is by and large bringing out the best in humanity. We have more signs of solidarity and hopefulness than we do of people not working together. There are so many incredible ways in which people are meeting necessary needs for those they know and those that they do not.

We can see Jesus at work each day in hundreds of thousands of people who do not even know him. There is an outpouring of kindness for people who have found themselves in trouble through none of their own doing. Society has rallied around people in need at this time.

We are seeing signs of God's upside-down kingdom, where we are placing our thanks and gratitude in the right places, with those that were considered unimportant and least valuable by some. It has been lovely to see our NHS staff, grocery shop staff, teachers and other key workers coming into their own during this time. We talk about how important they are, we preach about how important they are, but we are now living it; truly living it.

I feel that through all the tragedy we are being offered an opportunity to press the reset on the way we do things. An opportunity to think again... history has shown us that God has lit the way many times for us to choose the right path. This is another moment. God is lighting a path for us, especially through this painful time.

In the chaos that has ensued and that is still to come in terms of normal life being disrupted, we can all look to God for help. We can listen to the still small voice that brings us peace and directs our actions. We need to rely on God, move when God's spirit directs us and follow Jesus's example now more than ever.

May we all listen, hear and follow at this time.

All my love and prayers

Nadene

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 do hope you are all keeping well and coping with the lockdown. I am sure you will agree with me in saying how grateful we are to Nadene in arranging our Sunday Services. She has worked very hard and it has been so enjoyable to be able to join in and hear the word of God each Sunday. Thanks to Zoom some of us have also been able to have the occasional coffee morning chatting and catching up with news of friends and family. Though it is not quite the same as sitting round a table and physically being able to talk to your neighbour!

An update on the past few weeks in Kelsey Park!
My first surprise was whilst watching one of the stunning sunsets about 4 weeks ago that I became aware of bats flying outside my window! They are amazing to watch as they swoop and fly so quickly (though I do make sure my windows are firmly shut!!) The goslings have suddenly really grown and are now the size of a small duck! Two lots of coots have some young, but as yet I have not seen them out on the lake just in their nests. The cob is still swimming around, so I am hoping that all is well and his family will appear very soon. One morning there was a lot of activity with obviously young herons who seemed to be dotted around the big lake. One young one flew back to Heron Island and was then given something from his mother! (Perhaps a reward!) I sensed the young were all beginning to learn to fly! The cherry blossom is still out and I can only just see the lake from my window as the trees are nearly in full bud. The views change daily but it is wonderful watching nature take its course. Keep well and safe and God bless you all.

Gill Ross

Lectionary

3rd May Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

10th May Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

17th May Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

24th May Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

31st May Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1
Corinthians 12:3b-13; or Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked – (John 20.19)

Ever present God,
be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion, be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of
uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought
low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we
were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be
restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried
that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help
them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who
are ill.
Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

O God,
help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.
We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it
costs
For as long as it takes wherever you call us.
Amen

LIVING WELL BROMLEY – FOOD BANK

Like all food banks, Living Well are experiencing very high demand for their services at present so please be generous.

In addition to tinned food of most kinds the Food Bank administrators tell us that in particular they need toilet rolls & mens' toiletries.

At present they would also be keen to receive the following:

Rice, Tinned Vegetables (including Baked Beans), Tinned Meat, Tinned Tomatoes, Potato Mash, and UHT Milk.

More information at <https://livingwell.life/p/food-bank>

ENVELOPE SCHEME

During these troubled times when we are unable to meet at the church, which may last for some months, you may be concerned at the thought of your free will offering envelopes building up. If you would like to do so, and this is just a thought, you could complete a bank standing order form to make the payments on your behalf. If you are interested in making such arrangements please phone me (07983 334946) and I will be happy to discuss this with you and supply an appropriate form for you to complete.

Anthony Bayley

Copy for the June Outlook by 24th May please

OFFERINGS

The offerings during March were as follows:-



March 1	£ 177.45
March 8	£118.50
March 15	£109.00

The after service coffee collections during March were in aid of Diabetes UK and totalled £44.60.

Anthony Bayley

The Duncan family hope this may assist you in navigating the current “Kafkaesque” Covid19 Regulations

1. Basically, you can't leave the house for any reason, but if you have to, then you can.
2. Masks are useless, but maybe you have to wear one, it can save you, it is useless, but maybe it is mandatory as well.
3. Stores are closed, except those that are open.
4. You should not go to hospitals unless you have to go there. Same applies to doctors, you should only go there in case of emergency, provided you are not too sick.
5. This virus is deadly but still not too scary, except that sometimes it actually leads to a global disaster.
6. Gloves won't help, but they can still help.
7. Everyone needs to stay HOME, but it's important to GO OUT.
8. There is no shortage of groceries in the supermarket, but there are many things missing when you go there in the evening, but not in the morning. Sometimes.
9. The virus has no effect on children except those it affects.
10. Animals are not affected, but there is still a cat that tested positive in Belgium in February when no one had been tested, plus a few tigers here and there...
11. You will have many symptoms when you are sick, but you can also get sick without symptoms, have symptoms without being sick, or be contagious without having symptoms. Oh, my..
12. In order not to get sick, you have to eat well and exercise, but eat whatever you have on hand and it's better not to go out, well, but no...
13. It's better to get some fresh air, but you get looked at very strangely when you get some fresh air, and most importantly, you don't go to parks or walk. But don't sit down, except that you can do that now if you are old, but not for too long or if you are pregnant (but not too old).

14. You can't go to retirement homes, but you have to take care of the elderly and bring food and medication.
15. If you are sick, you can't go out, but you can go to the chemists.
16. You can get restaurant food delivered to the house, which may have been prepared by people who didn't wear masks or gloves. But you have to have your groceries decontaminated outside for 3 hours. Pizza too?
17. Every disturbing article or disturbing interview starts with " I don't want to trigger panic, but..."
18. You can't see your older mother or grandmother, but you can take a taxi with an older taxi driver.
19. You can walk around with a friend but not with your family if they don't live under the same roof.
20. You are safe if you maintain the appropriate social distance, but you can't go out with friends or strangers at the safe social distance.
21. The virus remains active on different surfaces for two hours, no, four, no, six, no, we didn't say hours, maybe days? But it takes a damp environment. Oh no, not necessarily.
22. The virus stays in the air - well no, or yes, maybe, especially in a closed room, in one hour a sick person can infect ten, so if it falls, all our children were already infected at school before it was closed. Remember to stay at the recommended social distance, however in certain circumstances you should maintain a greater distance, as studies show the virus can travel further, maybe.
23. We count the number of deaths but we don't know how many people are infected as we have only tested so far those who were "almost dead" to find out if that's what they will die of...

24. We have no treatment, except that there may be one that apparently is not dangerous unless you take too much (which is the case with all medications).
25. We should stay locked up until the virus disappears, but it will only disappear if we achieve collective immunity



10th-16th May

As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You've already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far.

Your love protects; from storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus. Your love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness. Your love protects. With soap, clean water and medical supplies.

By supporting us this Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.

Many of you will have been planning house-to-house collections and events. Under the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house collections and delivery-only collections should not go ahead. In particular, along with many churches, events such as Big Brekkies cannot go ahead.

Instead, Christian Aid Week is moving online! We are building a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week so you can take part with our online community. We would love you to join in to show love for our neighbours near and far, as a global family.

Donate at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> Please give generously.

BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Oakhill Road (off Crescent Road)

Interim Minister	Rev. Nadene Snyman	07876 707863 01689 637625 nadene72@gmail.com
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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	Ms L Eyres	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 nd & 4 th)	Wednesday	14.00 – 16.30
	Wednesday	18.30 – 20.00
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