

# SEPTEMBER 2018



## Outlook

**Beckenham United Reformed Church**  
<http://www.beckenhamurc.com>

## SUNDAY WORSHIP - September 2018

2nd Sept Mrs Marion Bayley including Holy Communion  
9th Sept Mrs. Gill Ross & Mrs. M. Bayley  
16th Sept Mr J. Twidale  
23rd Sept Miss June Mackenzie  
30th Sept Mrs. Marion Bayley - Harvest Festival & Church Parade

### OTHER DIARY EVENTS

5th September 2.30pm Bible Study  
11th September 2.30pm Crescent Club  
11th September 7.30pm Elders  
19th September 1pm Luncheon Club

Harvest Lunch - 30th September

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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>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Bayleys	Marion Bayley
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Power	Muriel Aldcroft
16 <sup>th</sup>	The Duncans	Monica Duncan
23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>available</i>	Jane Ball
30 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival	Harvest Festival

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Dear Friends

“Look at situations from all angles and you will become more open”

No, it could have been but actually this is not a quote from Jesus but, instead, from the Dalai Lama of Tibet. Interestingly it was recently quoted by Mercedes Benz in an advert and the reaction from China was such that they felt they had to delete the advert and issue a grovelling apology. (In China you will be sent to prison for years merely for having a photo of the Dalai Lama!). What a sad world we live in.

And yet.....

While writing this, NASA have sent a probe to the sun, yes the sun! It will travel at up to 430,000 m.p.h. (the fastest thing ever created by mankind) and withstand temperatures in excess of 1,000°C. It will tell us a lot more about the sun concerning which we are surprisingly ignorant. This is an amazing development and something we can take pride in and hope for the future. Most of us are of the generation who watched a man step on to the moon. A moment I, for one, will never forget. So perhaps the world is not so sad after all.

We, as Christians, are so fortunate. Jesus died for us and therefore, unlike so many others, we can look to the future with faith and hope.

In Proverbs 10.28 we read “The hope of the righteous ends in gladness but the expectation of the wicked comes to nothing.”

I will end with a short prayer, which seems appropriate.

Help us, Creator of Hope,  
To recognise its growth,  
To secure its planting  
To celebrate its flowering  
Within our hearts  
And throughout your world

Amen

Anthony

## **FROM THE SECRETARY**

Rachel St. Clair took two services for us at the beginning of July. What an inspiration she was! I think we all felt uplifted after her services.

On a very hot day at the beginning of August, six of us went to John Grundy's Induction and Ordination in Brockley. The actual Sanctuary is upstairs and as it was so hot, we were all given a cup of iced water as we entered, which was very welcome! What an amazing service it was! The choir were fantastic and led us in all the hymns. I am sure John will enjoy being Minister of this very vibrant church.

Congratulations must go to Mary's daughter Nicky, who walked 42 kms and raised £761 in aid of Alzheimer's. The walk at times was very treacherous and took 13 hours in total. Well done Nicky - a superb effort!

Muriel hosted her annual tea party last week, which was very much enjoyed by us all. Thank you Muriel - you have a wonderful gift of hospitality!

Last week I was on holiday in the Forest of Dean and went to the local Church. From the outside, it looked a very traditional Church, but on entering I discovered there were no pews just chairs and tables and a kitchen in the corner! Such a surprise, but it was so welcoming! There were about 30/40 people in the congregation and I was told that they often have their services in "cafe church" style. Everyone was very friendly, and the service was slightly more informal as we were sitting round tables. So as I am leading worship on 9th September, I thought we would experiment and sit round tables! So please don't be surprised when as you enter, there will not be the usual rows of chairs!

Otherwise Beckenham has coped very well this summer, especially with the hot weather!

Gill Ross

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### **NEWS OF SUE POWELL**

On a journey Monica and I recently had, to come back from wildest Cheshire to Beckenham, we took the opportunity of travelling through the beautiful Peak District and realised that we would be passing through or close to Chesterfield, where Sue Powell now lives. Happily Sue was at home when we 'phoned and could meet with us for lunch. With the help of detailed instructions we successfully

navigated the suburbs of the town and found her charming new home, upon which she has spent quite some time getting it just as she wants it.

We had about three hours of delightful reminiscing (and lunch) and left feeling that Sue was happy with her move, was very busy looking after four Churches, and was now well settled in this part of Derbyshire. She sends her greetings and best wishes to all at Beckenham URC. Alan

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## Lectionary

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sept** Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9;  
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15 James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**9<sup>th</sup> Sept** Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Psalm 146 James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7:24-37

**16<sup>th</sup> Sept** Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19 Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 116:1-9 or Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 - 8:1 James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sept** Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-  
2:1, 12-22 or Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54 James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

**30<sup>th</sup> Sept** Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124 Numbers  
11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

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## PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Bread is a lovely thing to eat – God bless the barley and the wheat.  
A lovely thing to breathe is air – God bless the sunshine everywhere.  
The earth's a lovely place to know – God bless the folks that come  
and go.

Alive is a lovely thing to be – Giver of life, we say “bless thee”.

For all the rich autumnal glories –  
the flaming pageant of the ripening woods,  
the fiery gorse, the heather-purple hills;  
the rustling leaves that fly before the wind  
and lie below the hedgerows whispering;  
for meadows silver-white with hoary dew;  
the first crisp breath of wonder in the air;  
and for the joy of Harvest Home.

September is a time of new beginnings – children starting school or changing classes; young people going to university or starting work; parents facing an “empty nest”; returning to homes and work refreshed by holidays; joining a new club or taking up a new hobby. Lord, we ask you to be with them all.

Amen



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**COFFEE** money for September

**Age UK**

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**LIVING WELL BROMLEY – FOOD  
BANK**

We urgently need donations of tinned goods and other foods such as:

- Tinned meat
- Baked beans
- Soup
- Tinned vegetables (Carrots, sweetcorn, mixed veg)
- Tinned fruit
- UHT milk
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Rice/packets of microwaveable rice

We also need donations of toilet roll & toiletries - men's shower gel & deodorants, shaving foam etc. We do have an excess of some items so do not require these -

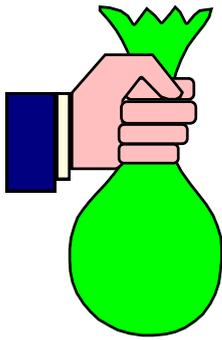
Teabags    Pasta    Pulses    Tinned fish    soap    Toothpaste

The foodbank is open on Tuesdays (3pm - 4pm), Fridays (1pm - 3pm) and Saturdays (11am - 12noon) when donations can be dropped off.

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## OFFERINGS

The offerings during June & July were as follows:-



June 3	£149.00
June 10	£121.00
June 17	£81.00
June 24	£164.50
July 1	£115.00
July 8	£78.00
July 15	£193.00
July 22	£96.50

The after service coffee collections during this period were as follows:-

Diabetes UK	£53.00
Alzheimers	£58.10

Anthony Bayley

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## MARJORIE McCLURE SCHOOL

I have received the following letter from Denise James-Mason, the School's Head Teacher.

“It was a wonderful surprise to receive your cheque for £63.92 to benefit our school and pupils. Please pass on our very grateful thanks to all the members of your congregation who contribute – and also congratulate the coffee providers who must make an excellent cup of coffee!

Your donation will be put with other funds to provide a ‘Space Pod’ to be erected in the playground. We are desperately short of space in school and this provision will enable us to have a quiet area for those pupils who need individual attention and/or the opportunity for play and relaxation. We are now nearing our goal, thanks to you and other interested parties, so hopefully the Pod may even be in situ ready for the start of the new term in September.

We really appreciate the kindness and thought indicated by your gift and send thanks from everyone here to your Church and congregation”.

Anthony Bayley

They are also this year's charity for Top of the Pew.

## G.D.P.R.

What on earth does this mean, most of you will be asking. It means General Data Protection Regulation and many of you will have heard me talking about this at Church Meeting and indeed most of you have signed an authorisation to allow your names and contact details to go into the next edition of our Directory. The Eldership act as Data Controllers for the Church and we have to provide a Data Privacy Statement. It runs to 3 pages of A4 so rather than fill up this edition of the Outlook I have placed a copy on the noticeboard in the church / main hall. If you would like a copy of your own to read at leisure just let me know.

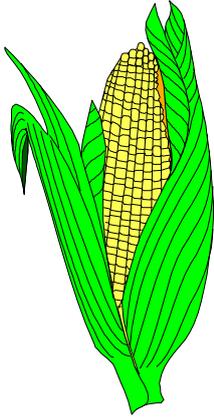
Anthony Bayley



On Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating with joy the miracle of the harvest and giving thanks to God for this annual gift. It is a miracle which we, in this country, are inclined to take for granted. There is always food in the local supermarket for us to buy, although the ever increasing costs have made us all more aware of food. Often we do not know where it comes from or even care. If the supermarket has difficulty in obtaining its supplies from one place or the costs increase they simply go somewhere else for their supplies. As members of my family know I have something of a fetish about seeing where things come from and it is a fascinating thing to do. We are isolated and separated from the harvest in our towns and cities in the rich west, but our farmers are not. They know all about the harvest, particularly this year in view of the lack of rain, but even for them, it is not usually, literally, a life or death affair. For many millions of people throughout the world the harvest is indeed



just that – a matter of life or death. We have all seen pictures in the media of droughts and flooding which have a ‘knock-on’ effect on all of us. The importance of the harvest is a reality for us all. For many years now we have expressed our gratitude for the Harvest by giving, and this year once again our response will involve three separate ways of giving and a different envelope for each one.



First of all there will be an opportunity to give to Commitment for Life, the United Reformed Church’s pipeline, through Christian Aid, by which certain projects in the Developing World are helped direct. You will recall that our chosen country is now Palestine / Israel. Readers of the Outlook will know of some of the problems and the valuable work undertaken there, which needs our support. An article appears elsewhere describing some of the work being undertaken there.

Secondly, there will be an opportunity to give once again to WaterAid. Many of you will know of its work, as we have supported them on many previous occasions. WaterAid is an international charity whose mission is to overcome poverty by enabling the world’s poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. Please see a further article on WaterAid elsewhere in this edition.



Thirdly there will be an opportunity to give to your own church. This does not need any further explanation from me, I am sure.

There will thus be three types of envelope available from September 23<sup>rd</sup> & I hope you will make use of one or more types.

If you have previously signed one of our Gift Aid forms all you need to do is write your name on the envelope(s). You do not need to complete the envelopes in full as I will be arranging the Gift Aid claims on everyone’s behalf. This will enable us to increase the value of your gift by a quarter at no cost to you. Please make all cheques payable to Beckenham U.R.C. in order that I can do this.

This all sounds a little complicated but it isn’t really. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to talk to me. Thank you for your generous help, which I am sure will be forthcoming.

Anthony Bayley



## ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY

As you will see elsewhere in this edition we raised £58.10 coffee money for the Alzheimers Society by supporting Nicky Smith's sponsored walk. She is Mary Thompson's daughter. Several members sponsored her directly in addition to the previously mentioned coffee money. She has written to me as follows:-

“Thank you so much for donating the church's coffee money and supporting my trek in aid of Alzheimers Research. It was certainly a challenge and the final total raised from everyone who kindly supported me was £761.00. I walked 42 km and my feet are now 'resting'! Thank you again, it was very generous. Kindest regards.

A.M.B.

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## COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

“This is my land, it was bare. Now I am working on it and gaining from it. PARC has helped us, who own our land, to make it fruitful.” So says Alam Hussein, a farmer in Bizzaryah, North West, West Bank.

Like many other farmers in the region Alam lost good farming land when the separation wall, dividing Palestine from Israel, was built. Christian Aid partner PARC, now renamed the Palestine Agricultural Development Association, has worked in the area for over 20 years and understand the needs of the people living and working there. They knew they needed to come up with ideas to increase production and develop new markets.

Alam is part of a land development programme, set up by PARC, where reclaimed land can now be used for planting fruit trees. This programme allows the farmers to get a better income from unusable rocky land. The rocks are initially cleared by hand, broken down and used to create retaining walls. A fence then marks the area to be worked. Once service roads are widened, tractors can be brought in to help plough the earth ready for planting the fruit trees. Varieties such as olive, almond, prunes or apricot are chosen to give a good yield and produce cash crops. Whilst the trees are maturing, this takes at least five years, vegetables, cereals or animal feed are grown in between.



PARC are particularly keen that each step of the process is transparent. Once a contract between PARC and the farmer is signed, the farmer will receive help with planning and execution. He will pay a small percentage of the costs himself because PARC feels this encourages self-esteem and empowerment.

In support of all this planting, underground water cisterns are also built. The water collects in the pan and then passes through a simple sand filter into the dugout cistern. This water can be used in the dry season to irrigate the tree saplings and the vegetables.

This programme has already led to a million fruit trees being planted, and they are now planting towards the second million. The fruit trees are a symbol of a hopeful and productive future.

AMB

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Mayama Mustafa,  grandmother, midwife and women's leader is an important figure in the jungle village of Tombohuaun, in eastern Sierra Leone. She is a calm and regal woman, with the demeanour of someone who has seen it all. And she has; birth, death, civil war and the outbreak of Ebola, as well as a community that is making progress. But in her 45 years of living in Tombohuaun, there's one thing she hadn't seen: clean water. Sitting on her porch, having shooed away her grandchildren, Mayama told us about life in the village. "We got water from the same place as we do now, of course ... In all this time, the water hasn't changed. It's still the same colour as it ever was." People in Tombohuaun only ever had one source of drinking water – a small waterhole just outside the village. It's a natural spring, which sounds idyllic, but Mayama knows the reality of it. "The water is so dirty. Sometimes it is yellowish or even black. But we have to drink it. We don't have any other water." This means that children and adults face a constant battle with illness – vomiting, diarrhoea, fever and malaria. And illness is expensive. Parents in Tombohuaun can spend over 50% of their income on healthcare for their families. There's also a greater cost, Mayama explains: "Many children have died because of the water, too many. It's so painful, sorrowful for me." People in Tombohuaun are resourceful and pull together as a community, so together, they've

found practical ways to deal with some of the challenges that come with dirty water.

“My advice to women always is ... show concern and be interested in each other in the community.” As the women’s leader, Mayama (called Mama Mayama, out of respect) leads by example. “When a woman leads other women it becomes easy for them to fully participate, discuss and share with you, because you are part of them.” She set up a women’s committee, called Agbomuma, which means ‘self-help’. Members work as a collective, farming and gardening together to increase their yield and earn extra money, which they contribute to a loan scheme. Mama Mayama is in charge of the cash box, and advises women on how to spend their loan, as well as how to pay it back.

So the women of Tombohuaun start the year by putting aside their savings for things like school books and uniforms, setting up a side-business... or the next bout of serious illness. Without clean water, the money can’t go far.

“Clean water will be a peaceful thing for us. It will bring us good health. The walk [to get water] will be shorter. Our lives will be longer.”

This year, Mama Mayama will finally see the change that she has been waiting for. WaterAid are working with the residents of Tombohuaun to design and build a well with a hand pump. And because good health is not underpinned by clean water alone, they are also digging toilets for their own households and educating the whole village about good hygiene. They’re ready for it. The leadership structures that are already in place in Tombohuaun, like the women’s Agbomuma group, will no doubt help to make this change a lasting one.

AMB



## **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Don't forget Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup> is the day of our Christmas Craft Fair. Make sure you have it firmly in your diaries and start telling your friends about it!

Anthony Bayley

## URC joins global call for prayer and relief for Kerala flood victims



Following severe flooding across Kerala, a southern state in India, the United Reformed Church has joined the Church of South India (CSI) and global ecumenical partners in appealing for prayers and support for the region.

Since the monsoon began in June, around 400 people have died, and thousands have been displaced and rendered homeless. The figures are expected to rise as many people are still reported missing.

The [CSI Synod](#) has reported that nearly three million people from 52,856 families have been rescued from various parts of the state and are being sheltered in 5,645 camps.



The Revd Dr Michael Jagessar, URC Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, shared his concerns: ‘The impact of this disaster will have a long-term effect on the lives of many,’ he said. ‘While rebuilding lives, communities and infrastructure is of primary concern, the important question of global warming and its impact on lives around the world need to be addressed. This is the collective view of Indian meteorologists and environmental experts. We will continue to hold the people of Kerala, our friends and partners, in our thoughts and join in acts of solidarity.’

With people in desperate need of shelter, food and clean water, Dr Jagessar encouraged those wishing to make donations to consider emergency appeals organised by [Oxfam](#) and [Christian Aid](#).

Mr Derek Estill and the Revd Nigel Uden, Moderators of the URC General Assembly, added: ‘Through the safety of our TV screens we have witnessed the distress and untold misery to millions of people in Kerala. We pray that their pain and suffering soon ceases through the goodwill and support from people around the world and, most importantly, God’s grace.’



In a statement released on Saturday (18 August), the Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, said: ‘Our hearts go out to people living in terrible fear in what has become a precarious situation. Local churches have become especially important in bringing hope to remote villages cut off by flooding that has destroyed roads and bridges ... We also hear reports of damage to churches and relief centres, and we pray for those trying to respond even while coping with their own losses.’

The Most Revd Thomas K Oommen, Moderator of the CSI, thanked those in the Madhya Kerala Diocese who have already responded to the crisis.

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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.

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**Copy for the October Outlook by 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

# BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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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	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 <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